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# THE MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Economy & Mechanic Arts.

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## ENGLISH FARMS AND ENGLISH FARM LABORERS.

We fully recognize the fact that every nation is prone to praise itself, to consider its own way of doing any one thing "the best of all possible ways," and its people and social condition superior to all rivalry. We trust, nevertheless, that our judgment may not be led astray by this most natural prejudice, when we say that, in our confident opinion, America is at least as active and progressive in most matters as any other country, and undeniably possesses finer intrinsic capacities and a more intelligent body of working men. So far we have used these advantages with vigor and enterprise, and our progress has been rapid beyond precedent. The time has long gone by, however, when, as Douglas Jerrold observed of Australia, "if you tickle the land with a straw, it laughs with a harvest." We have now, in the seaboard States, reached the period when the natural fertility of the soil no longer enables it to raise remunerative crops without artificial help, and when, therefore, every aid derived from careful study of the farming systems of older countries is peculiarly valuable.—We have not yet attained, nor have we nearly attained, perfection. The capabilities of the future are indeed nearly equal to those of the past; but they are more difficult of development, inasmuch as the period of rude has now to be succeeded by that of skilled labor. We cannot, in view of this, afford to stand idle in the vain conceit that our manner of work, or its result, is the best that can be reached, when in other lands, by the slow improvement of many centuries, skillful and experienced men may have arrived at a wiser and better method. It is to our manifest advantage to adopt all suggestions that commend themselves to our judgment from whatever source they may come, whether from the garden-like fields of Belgium or from the model farms, houses and dense green swards of England. If we are to restore our lands to the fertility of former years, it would be well for those among us who are wedded to the notion that what they do, and nothing else, is

right, to discard such notions at once. It is as true now as in the time of the heathen poets, that "whoever thinks that he himself has wisdom, or a tongue, or a soul such as no other man has, such a man when laid open has been found to be empty." Mr. Luther H. Tucker, of the *Country Gentleman*, in his able essay entitled "American Glimpses of Agriculture in Great Britain," states the following to be his opinion as to those characteristics of English farming which should be "most thoroughly sifted and studied with us." These are—"First, and chiefly, the home production and use of more manure by the agency of the animals fed upon the farm. Secondly, the proper drainage of the soil. Thirdly, more attention to thorough tillage and complete cleanness from intruding weeds. Fourthly, the employment, when justified by circumstances, of artificial manures and feeding materials—under these last mentioned two divisions, including those crops which are grown expressly for their improving effect upon the land or for the use of animals whose manures may almost rank in this sense with purchased fertilizers; and, finally, more earnest and better organized effort in obtaining well conducted experiments, in carrying on scientific investigations, and in deciding the difficult question as to how and in what way the education of our farmers' sons may be advanced." The conclusion to which he comes, in comparing the agriculture of the two countries, is this: "That the improved English agriculture of our day—with that measure of perfect success it has achieved, and that measure of certainty that now attends its successes—has been a natural and gradual growth out of a confusion far greater than that which now overhangs our own efforts after advancement; that even throwing aside entirely the advantages we have been deriving for twenty or thirty years from the mechanical skill of our inventors, the average character of our farming is now quite as intelligent and satisfactory as theirs was at a period not very remote—bearing in mind, however, that England has possessed for half a century or more the same advantages (although not in a degree so great,)

which she now possesses in her far greater wealth, her aristocratic predilections for country life and her compact population, over the present condition of American agriculture."

The interest that the late Prince Consort took in the agricultural as well as in the commercial progress of England is well known. He established a model farm, exhibited its products yearly at the meetings of various county societies, and was always among the first to patronize all labor-saving inventions. The effect of this, in a country where the lead of prominent men is so immediately followed by a large and emulous body of supporters, was soon apparent. The memory of the man whom Tennyson so justly calls "Albert the Good," and who stood blameless even

"In that white light which beats upon a throne  
And blackens every blot,"

will be cherished in after time at least as much for his quiet, effective influence upon English agriculture as for more elevated virtues.

America has two great advantages over all other countries. Land can be purchased at prices so various that the means or wants of any class of purchasers can be suited, whilst the annually increasing value of the land, under skillful cultivation and the increase of population, constitutes of itself a profit on the investment above and beyond any profit that may be derived from the crops. It is these considerations, joined to high rates of wages, that tempt emigrants hitherwards. Nothing less than the strongest possible motive could ever induce even the poorest of them to leave the associations of a life time, to sever all local attachments and seek a new and distant home in a strange land. It is, indeed, the only motive powerful enough to move such masses, for it is one that fosters the hope of gaining sufficient return for their labor to enable them to live a life of something more than simple endurance. Few of those who have not travelled in Europe know upon how small a pittance the lower classes subsist.—Meat is rarely eaten more than once a week by a large proportion of them. The price of land is high; labor is abundant, and wages consequently very low. The owner of the soil must make his profit out of something, and he makes them out of the labor of his field hands. A little episode has just occurred in England, touching this question of wages, that is worthy of being studied. We call it an episode, but we trust that it may be the beginning of a wide spread and permanent improvement. We condense the facts from the late English papers: Mr. Edward Girdlestone, the Vicar of Halberton, in Devonshire, found it of little use "either to preach or educate so long as the population remained at starvation point." Of course, therefore, he adopted the Englishman's universal remedy for all evils. He wrote a letter to the *Times*, setting forth the facts of the case with all

their painful details. The gist of his complaint was the inadequacy of the wages then paid to support life. While in America a day's work for an agricultural laborer is seldom valued at less than a dollar, and in most cases at a dollar and fifty cents, it appears from this undoubtedly truthful account, that the wages of a laborer in a Devonshire parish, in the year 1866, were but one dollar and eighty-four cents a week. Out of this pitiful sum there come deductions for house rent, for grist or coarse flour, &c., so that "the actual sum carried home on Saturday night for the support of the family during the following week was often not more than ninety-two cents." We know that the natives of India, favored by climate, can subsist easily upon four or five cents a day, and the Chinese upon less; but until we read these English papers we had hardly imagined a far worse state of affairs to exist. The kind of house this sum enables its occupant to rent may be gathered from the remarks of a Mr. Greene, in the British Parliament, upon the bill for providing better houses for the poor of London. That gentleman "pointed out that there was a lamentable want of accommodation in the agricultural districts. In a village of a thousand inhabitants he found that not 15 per cent. of the families had three rooms. Many persons of both sexes had to remain in one room; almost invariably in two, and rarely in three. By this overcrowding, the moral physique of the man<sup>is</sup> lowered and he flies to stimulants to make up for what the system lacks."

Rushing into print, in the case of Mr. Girdlestone, led to good results. Numerous letters were speedily received by him, all telling the same story of what the *Saturday Review* calls "high wages" and few hands—the "high wages" being from two dollars and seventy-five to three dollars and fifty cents a week, and the laborers [to support themselves and families. Mr. Girdlestone soon found himself, very willingly we presume, at the head of an agricultural agency. There arose a kind of free trade in laborers between Devonshire and other counties. The superabundant labor of Halberton, having found an outlet, those who still remained there were relieved from a ruinous competition. Wages have already advanced twenty-five and fifty cents a week. The farmers, however, we are told, "decline to swell the chorus of happy villagers which welcomed the new era." We cannot suppose that any disinterested man of common humanity will be less thankful upon this account, that so much misery has at least been mitigated. Fifty cents per hand additional expense a week will hardly ruin the farmers. Even in this improved state of affairs, the two parties seem to us to be still very far from the point where the respective claims of capital and labor are evenly adjusted, so that the farmer may be reasonably remunerated and the latter well paid.



## THE CHANGE OF SEASONS.

Ages ago the earth crust ceased to be affected.—Its molten and fiery centre; its gigantic fauna and flora disappeared and all animated things upon its surface were thenceforth left to receive from the sun alone the light and warmth necessary to their existence. From that time to the present there has been, in the opinion of the most eminent scientific men, no general variation in the distribution of heat and cold upon any part of the globe. As far as the scanty meteorological data of the past enables us to form an opinion, this question appears to be settled. The facts and conjectures which have been adduced to support a contrary theory have either been refuted, or have proved inconclusive and vague. This at least we know—that the vine and the fig tree, both of which are very easily affected by changes of climate, flourish vigorously now in places where they were cultivated in the days of Abraham and Homer. We may conclude, therefore, that no perceptible change has occurred, for at least three thousand years. There is another question however which is more open to controversy, and that is, that whilst the general equilibrium may not have been disturbed, whether local variations may not have taken place or may not even now be in progress?—Upon this subject no positive opinion can yet be advanced, as derived from ascertained and undeniable facts. Meteorology as a science is not yet far enough advanced to enable theorists to express confidently new and strange views, and to support them by an irrefutable mass of data. For the present we can only observe and conjecture, collect facts, and wait for time to solve the problem. There are doubtless opinions that are now considered wild and visionary which more accurate knowledge may verify in the future. In one of the former numbers of the FARMER we called attention to a letter addressed by the Rev. Mr. Leakin to the Agricultural Department with reference to the periodicity of drought. The answer in this case was brief and to the point—there were no data to justify the assumption.—There are, nevertheless, vague notions afloat in regard to many things, which notions obtain credence in spite of data. There are intelligent and experienced men who hold, with stubborn tenacity, that the seasons of intense heat and intense cold move in cycles—that for a period of seven years our winters go on increasing in intensity, and that for the seven succeeding years they go on increasing in mildness, and that these cycles succeed to each in regular rotation. Of course the idea is a loose one and the limit thus set may be arbitrary. It is nevertheless quite possible, that hereafter some law may be discovered governing such changes. There are many persons again who assert that our seasons of spring and au-

umn are changing their character. This last opinion which might be accounted for here by the extensive denudation of our forest lands, we were surprised to find is also entertained in England. There are few closer observers of nature than Mr. Anthony Trollope, and in his last novel "The Claverings," we find the following sentence:

"It was now the middle of May—and Spring was giving way to early summer almost before the Spring had itself arrived. It is so, I think, in these latter years. The sharpness of March, prolongs itself almost through April, and then, while we are still hoping for the Spring, there falls upon us suddenly a bright dangerous delicious gleam of sunshine."

If this be so, and Spring, instead of its traditional soft airs, gives us little else than cold heavy rains and rough blasts, has not the annual equilibrium of the seasons been restored by long, mild and open Autumns. We remember of late years, but few cold and wintry days, before the middle of December, and even up to Christmas day although some sharp frosts may have occurred, the weather is not unfrequently mild and balmy. Even November, satirically known in England as "the month of suicides," come to us usually as a pleasant sunshiny acquaintance.

The Farmer's interest however lies chiefly in the favorable character of the Spring; which is the season when all species of field work presses most heavily. If there should prove to be any permanent change in this particular season, it is to him of the utmost importance that he should know something more concerning these modifications of climate. Our elders tell us that the Spring seasons of recent years are not like those to which they were accustomed in their younger days. Even we ourselves can remember far enough back to find some plausibility in the assertion. Certainly the last three or four Spring seasons have been invariably cold and wet. We should rejoice if we could hope that in the Spring just past we have had the worst of them. Both the moral and physical world seems out of joints. In the moral world, as in the physical, judging by accounts from all quarters, an equally remarkable and abnormal condition of things is manifesting itself.—In this country there have been heavy floods and great destruction of property at the West and South—tornados in New Jersey and elsewhere—a severe earthquake in Missouri and Kansas—and a terrible one attended by great loss of life in the Island of Mitylene. Last year there were heavy frosts in Maryland as late as the 25th and 26th of May. This year there was ice a fifth of an inch thick on the 29th of April, and a heavy snow storm on the 3d of May, followed a few days afterwards by hail.

All through the season there have been incessant

rains, frequently accompanied by high winds and a low temperature. Europe has also suffered from the backwardness of the Spring almost as much as ourselves. One of the London papers speaking of the French Exhibition says: "France, like the rest of Europe, was visited in April by a sort of second winter. With snow on the ground and the thermometer below the freezing point it was out of the question to visit such a show. When at last the long dreary winter came to an end, it was the turn of the wind and the rain. We have as much wet as would soak the Great Palace, and day after day the bleak western winds have driven the waves wild with fury." These facts certainly justify us in asking the question—Is there any change taking place in our seasons? Time and a more extensive knowledge of meteorological laws can alone answer such a question satisfactorily.

#### **New Stump Pulling Machine.**

The editor of the *Hammonton Culturist*, writing on the subject of Stump Pulling, thus speaks of a new invention which he recently witnessed in operation:—"A more recent is a Stump Puller, manufactured by Mr. Pressey, of Hammonton, New Jersey. This machine is not merely portable, but very powerful. Two men, with the aid of the levers, exert a lifting power equal to 40,000 pounds. Very few stumps in New Jersey will resist this tremendous force. During the past month one of Mr. Pressey's machines was tried on the heavy oak stumps at East Fruitland, and with most signal success.—With it, at least one hundred large stumps may be taken out in a day by two men. As the stumps are taken out whole—small roots as well as large—the advantages of pulling instead of grubbing them is very decided. The ground is left ready for the plow, and subsequent cultivation is not interfered with by the small roots usually left after grubbing.

We saw pine stumps taken out with this machine which had tap roots fully eight feet long. We congratulate Mr. Pressey on the decided success of his invention, and are glad to learn that he has orders for all that he is able to manufacture."

**LAND MEASURE.**—Every farmer, at this season of the year more particularly, should have a rod measure—a light, stiff pole—just 16½ feet long, for measuring land. By a little practice he can learn to step a rod at five paces, which will answer very well for ordinary farm work. Ascertaining the number of rods in width and length of a lot you wish to measure, and multiply one into the other, and divide by 160, and you have the number of acres, as 160 square rods make a square acre. If you wish to lay off one acre, measure thirteen rods upon each side. This lacks only one rod of full measure.

## **Our Agricultural Calendar.**

### **Farm Work for June.**

It cannot be doubted that the very cold and wet and backward season has militated greatly against the early planting of corn, and has sensibly retarded its growth. In many instances where farmers planted early, the corn has rotted in the ground from excess of rain, and much replanting has had to be done. There is of course still time to make a good crop, but the product will scarcely be so heavy as might otherwise have been expected. In cases of this kind, arising from causes over which the most skillful and energetic of agriculturists have no control, it is difficult what to advise. High manuring and thorough cultivation may do much towards correcting the evil, but the additional expense and labor incurred will necessarily lessen the profits.—Where corn has yet to be put in, and we know of some instances on cold, wet, low soils where this work has unavoidably been delayed, the only remedy is to choose a quick growing variety of corn, such as is used in Canada and in some of the Eastern States, where the season opens late and the summer is short though hot for the time it lasts. Another source of uneasiness prevails at the present time. We learn that in some parts of the Western Shore of this State, and in the Valley of Virginia, the fly is committing serious ravages amongst the wheat. The promise of a wheat crop in those sections was never better until the fly made its appearance, and the prospect of loss from that source is consequently very depressing. As a general rule the wheat crop throughout the United States is said to be good, and further South, if close, muggy weather does not bring on the rust, the product will be excellent, both in quantity and quality. So much consolation we find in an extended outlook. But nearer home the prospect for some of our best farmers is less cheering. The work for the month is as follows:

#### **CULTIVATION OF CORN.**

In those sections of country where the corn is well up a thorough cultivation of the soil as soon as it is dry enough, will prove of essential benefit to the young plant by admitting light and air and also by rendering the soil more porous, after being compacted by continuous beating rains. It is scarcely worth while to recapitulate what corn requires to produce it in the greatest perfection, as almost every body engaged in its culture well knows that the lighter and richer soils are those that are best adapted to its growth, and that where wheat would lodge or rust from excess of rich food, corn will thrive luxuriantly. The rapid growth of corn demands that its food



should be presented to it in the most soluble form and that the phosphates should be present in the soil in quantities amply sufficient for the use of the plants together with all the other constituents that are essential to its vigorous growth. The next best thing is incessant and skillful tillage. Corn must be worked and worked and worked again with the shovel plough and the cultivator until every clod is broken up, and every weed extirpated. Nor should this labor be remitted until the crop is ready to be laid by. Even through the harvest season of this year we fear it will be necessary to keep a portion of the hands in the corn-field—for any cessation of labor in the earlier stages of the growth of this important cereal may sensibly affect the ultimate product. The old system of hilling is growing into disuse and flat cultivation is now beginning to be recognised as decidedly preferable. But whatever system is followed the work should be vigorously pushed and every available means resorted to for the purpose of promoting a rapid and healthy growth.

#### **SUGAR BEET AND MANGOLD WURTZEL.**

The Sugar Beet, and the Mangold Wurtzel are both excellent roots and when used as food for stock to supplement the dry fodder of the winter season are decidedly beneficial. Of the two the Sugar Beet is the best from the fact that it abounds in saccharine matter and is therefore more fattening than the Mangold Wurtzel and because it is less coarse in texture and therefore more eagerly eaten by stock than the latter. The mangold wurtzel will however produce heavier crops on the same extent of land than the Sugar Beet and to this extent may be preferable when a large amount of stock is to be kept in the winter. In either case there is still time for planting these roots, from about the 1st, to the 10th, of June, although they would have done better had they been gotten into the ground earlier. The soil should be made rich and ploughed deeply, and laid off in drills from twenty-eight to thirty inches apart along these drills a portion of manure, and of the best quality should be spread, or some one of the commercial fertilizers may be used instead. The soil is then thrown together by two bouts of the plough as in planting potatoes. The crown of the ridge is broken down so as to leave it flat, and along the centre of the ridge the seed is to be drilled. After the plants come up dust them with a mixture of wood ashes and soot, to protect them from the fly, and at the first and second workings sprinkle over the entire surface a few bushels of refuse salt. In thinning out leave the most vigorous plants about eight inches apart in the rows, and stir the intervals with the shovel plough and cultivator, using the hoe in among the plants themselves.

#### **RUTA BAGA.**

As soon as June opens select a deep, rich, sandy

loam, if it is to be had, if not take the soil that approximates in texture and quality nearest to it.—Plough it well and harrow thoroughly; now lay the land off in drills thirty inches apart and spread along the drills a liberal dressing of well rotted manure or phosphatic guano; ridge up and sow the seed along the flattened surface of the ridge. The after treatment and cultivation, omitting the salt, is the same as recommended for sugar beet and mangold wurtzel.

#### **BROADCAST CORN—MILLET.**

Wherever the crop of hay is likely to be short, or it is desirable for other reasons to husband it, broadcast corn or millet may be seeded to make up the deficiency. The soil should in either case be made rich and should undergo a thorough preparatory tillage. The earlier these grains are seeded during the month the better will be the prospect for heavy crops. For further suggestions see the *Farmer* for May.

#### **CUTTING GRASSES AND CLOVER FOR HAY.**

All the grasses, and the rule holds good with clover also, should be cut whilst in blossom. The best time for cutting clover, as we have repeatedly said, is when the blossoms are turning brown.—The quality of the hay is better and more marketable, and the land is less injured than it would be if the grasses and clover were permitted to go to seed.

#### **SALTING STOCK.**

A full supply of salt to stock during the summer months is indispensable. Rock salt, or a mixture of salt, ashes and mild oyster shell lime should be at all times accessible to the stock on a farm. For sheep, tar the bottom of the trough and sprinkle salt freely over the tar; repeat this frequently.

#### **BUCKWHEAT**

A couple of acres of buckwheat may be judiciously put in, either for sale in market or for home consumption, during this month. Top dress the land, if it is poor, with either of the following mixtures:

1st. 5 bushels of crushed bones and 10 bushels of wood ashes; mix, spread and plough under.

2d. 250 pounds of phosphatic guano, 1 bushel of plaster, 1 bushel of refuse salt; spread broadcast and plough under.

*Quantity of Seed per Acre.*—Sow broadcast at the rate of three pecks of seed per acre.

*Seeding to Grass.*—If the soil is in good condition, or if it should be desirable not to cut the buckwheat, but to use it to improve the land, it may be turned under whilst in blossom, and timothy or orchard grass seeded thereon at the fall seeding of the wheat, following with clover seed at the rate of a peck to the acre in the spring.

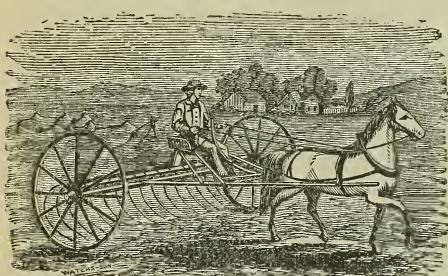
#### **WET LANDS.**

If June should prove to be a dry month, an opportunity may be had for draining wet lands, although it is doubtful whether the press of work this season will admit of it.

**PLANTING FALL POTATOES.**

Potatoes intended as the main crop for winter use should have been planted a month ago. It is not however yet too late, although the product may be lessened by the delay. If, therefore, the planting has not been done, go to work and get the potato sets in as early as possible.

For further directions see the two previous numbers of the *Farmer*.

**STEEL-TOOTH WHEEL HORSE RAKE.**

The Horse Wheel Rake has now been in general use for some four or five years. Thousands of them have been sold and they have given universal satisfaction, and have now become an indispensable article to the thrifty farmer. In many instances farmers have saved the cost of the Rake in a single season by raking their stubble fields. It can be operated by a small boy, and is a great labor saving implement. In passing from field to field the Rake can be hooked up by a catch, so that it can be moved with as much ease as a buggy. The season is now at hand when our farmers should look around to make a selection for the coming harvest. Price about \$45.

**PREPARATION OF LAWNS.**—Mr. P. Barry, of Rochester, whose authority on the subject is excellent, advises in the *American Journal of Horticulture*, to sow grass seed "at the earliest moment the condition of the ground will admit—that is, when it is dry enough to be finely pulverized with harrow and roller." He very naturally scouts the idea of sowing grain of any kind, at the same time, as being altogether "too much like setting a lion to protect the lamb." Grass seed alone, sown thus early, "will have made sufficient growth before the dry season comes, to endure any ordinary drouth—in-deed a good lawn may be had in the month of June.

"As to the kind of grass, I find that pure, clean red-top is good enough—white clover added, in about the proportion of one bushel to four, makes a good mixture, of which four bushels to the acre is not too much."

"None but the brave deserve the fair." No, and none but the brave can live with some of them!

**Garden Work for June.**

Now that all the preparatory work of the garden has been accomplished, further remarks on that head would be superfluous. We therefore proceed at once to the work that requires attention during this month.

**Melons and Canteleupes.**—Keep the earth well stirred above these vines, and water freely during the dry season.

**Bunch Beans.**—Plant bunch beans early in the month for the main crop. Make the drills from a foot to eighteen inches apart, and from two to two and a half inches deep. Any good soil will grow this crop.

**Peas.**—Drill in a few rows of Marrowfat peas every ten days, for succession. As the season advances choose that part of the garden for the growth of this crop which is least exposed to the direct rays of the sun.

**Setting out Cabbage Plants.**—It is now time to set out cabbage plants for the main crop. The soil cannot be made too rich, and should incline rather to clay than to sand. The rows should be at least two feet apart, and for the larger sorts of cabbage thirty inches apart will not be too wide. Dibble in the plants eighteen inches apart in the rows, selecting a moist cloudy day for the transplanting, and watering freely in dry weather. In drawing the plants from the seed bed dip their roots in a solution of cow manure and soot made of the consistence of cream.

**Cucumbers and Squashes.**—Keep the earth stirred about these, and extirpate all weeds.

**Sweet Potatoes.**—Cultivate these freely and frequently by running cultivator in the intervals between the potato hills. Be careful not to injure the vines in drawing fresh earth from them with the hoe. Keep the soil light and loose and free from weeds. In dry weather, water after sunrise, three times a week.

**Cauliflower.**—Break down and fold in the leaves of such cauliflowers as may be about to head. Keep the earth well stirred about the plants and water freely in dry weather. Young plants may still be set out in cloudy weather.

**Sowing Cabbage Seed.**—It is late for sowing Cabbage seed, but to raise plants for Fall use it may still be done.

**Broccoli.**—Set out broccoli plants.

**Celery.**—Transplant celery plants into the trenches that have been prepared for their reception.

**Asparagus Beds.**—Keep these clean of weeds.

**Leeks, Lettuce and Small Salading.**—Set out these as the plants become large enough—sow fresh seed for small salading—and more lettuce seed for succession.



*Lima and Carolina Beans.*—Keep the earth light and open to air and moisture, by frequent stirring. Hoe the hills well, and let no grass or weeds grow about the young vines. See that the poles are set firmly and are of a sufficient length to allow the vines to climb freely.

*Radish Seed.*—Continue to sow the seed of summer radish every two weeks for succession.

*Beets.*—Thin out the young plants to eight inches apart, and keep the soil loose and clean.

*Salsify or Oyster Plants.*—Thin out the young plants to stand six inches apart, in the row, and throughout the season stir the soil occasionally and keep it free of weeds. Salsify delights in a rich deep sandy loam, and will not flourish well in any other soil.

*Endive.*—The young plants of endive that have been forwarded for an early crop may now be pricked out, leaving the main planting until later in the season. Endive may follow on the same ground from which early cabbage or early peas have been taken, provided it is supplied with an additional dressing of manure. In seeding endive draw the drills twelve inches apart; sow the seed thinly along the drills and cover lightly. The late crop should not, however, be seeded until towards the close of July.

*Okra.*—If okra was sown in May—as it ought to have been—the plants will now be well advanced. Thin them out to 9 inches apart in the row, and hoe them well, drawing at each successive hoeing a little additional earth to their stems.

*Tomatoes.*—These plants if forwarded in a hot bed should have been set out, for early use, not later than the middle of May. They may, however, still be planted out. The main crop should not be delayed beyond the first week of the present month. In setting out plants choose those that are short and sturdy, rejecting the spindling ones, and plant out on a moist cloudy day. It is desirable that the plants should be shaded until they take fresh root. The ground should be rich, or rich manure should be used in the hill. The best distance for the vines is three feet apart each way, and the cultivation simply that which is best adapted to corn. There is however, one other point to be observed—tomatoes should be watered freely in dry weather.

*Egg Plants.*—Egg plants which have been forwarded in a hot bed would have been better planted by the middle of May, in ordinary seasons, than at any later time. The cold weather may however have prevented this and it is therefore desirable that they should now be planted out as early as possible. Plant in rows two feet apart each way, and water freely at the time of planting.

*Red Peppers.*—Transplant the red peppers when about three inches high. It is desirable that this

work should be done before the middle of the month. Draw the drills eighteen inches apart and set the plants one foot apart in the row. Choose a moist day for transplanting or else water freely, and shade the young plants. When the plants have started to grow afresh, hoe frequently and earth up the stems.

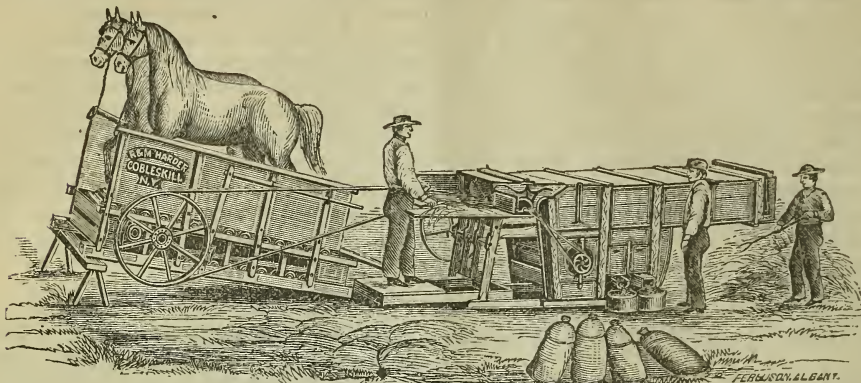
*Pot and Medicinal Herbs.*—These may still be planted out. As those already established come into bloom they should be gathered and dried—choosing a clear, sunny day for that purpose. After careful drying, put the herbs into paper bags and label them.

#### CASTOR BEANS—CULTIVATION, &c.

The editor of the *Farmer's Advertiser*, St. Louis, Mo., has had considerable experience in the cultivation and preparation of the castor bean for market. This he communicates in a recent number of his paper, from which we condense the leading features of his practice in the cultivation of this article.—The soil for this crop should be dry and adapted to growing wheat or corn. The bean straw is said to be superior to clover as a fertilizer, if plowed under in the fall as soon as the seed pods are gathered.—Planting should be done as soon as the ground can be got into good tilth, as for other cultivated crops. If the ground is low, or likely to suffer from rains, throw it into ridges. The rows should be from five to six feet apart each way. About every eighth row leave a space of eight feet for the passage of a wagon at gathering time. In preparing the seed, pour water, raised to nearly the boiling point, upon it and let it remain twenty-four hours before planting. Eight or ten seeds to the hill should be dropped, as the cut worms are likely to destroy some of the plants. Keep the ground open and mellow as for hoed crops. The spikes of pods are generally about 18 inches long, and should be gathered as soon as they begin to turn brown—cutting them off as they ripen. They may be dried in a house specially prepared, or in an open place with a southern inclination—the ground being first rolled down hard to facilitate the gathering of the beans, as they pop out of the pods, as they frequently do to the distance of a dozen feet.

The spikes of pods should be frequently turned over till they are all clean, when a new batch, which ripened later, may be put in the same place. If rain is threatened, rake the pods into heaps and cover them with straw or boards. When all the beans are out sweep them together, clean with a fanning-mill, sack or store them, in a dry place, for market. The yield is about twenty bushels per acre, and the price per bushel ranges from two dollars to five.—Prolific seasons may depress the price below two dollars, but this is not often the case. Where the cultivation is on an extended and permanent scale, a drying-house is important, as loss from bad weather is avoided and a saving made in the end, amply repaying the cost of the structure.

## Harder's Premium Horse Power and Combined Thresher and Cleaner.



The above is a representation of the Harder Horse-Power and Thresher, which received the award from the committee at the National Trial of Implements, held at Auburn, New York, in July, 1866, on which occasion the several implements offered for prizes were submitted to the most thorough tests, and reported upon most elaborately. The separate reports on these machines are very full and explicit, from which we make a few brief extracts. The committee say:

\* \* \* "It is somewhat longer than other machines with which we are acquainted; the sides are also somewhat lower, admitting more air to, and under the horses in hot weather. The entire length of the chain is 18 3-12 feet. There are 31 links, each 17 inches long. It is 4 feet 7 inches wide from outside to outside of sills. \* \* \*

The usual way of constructing these powers, is either to carry round the lower end of the chain on a curved railway, or on a reel having the same number of arms as the upper one. It will be readily seen that when both these arms are in the same straight line, the tension will be much greater than when they are not in the same line. To prevent the occurrence of this difficulty, Messrs. Harder's make their upper reel with seven clutch arms, while the lower one has only five; by this arrangement, the point of greatest tension in the upper reel corresponds with the point of least tension in the lower one.

This equalizing feature of the links and clutch arms is a distinctive feature of this machine, and the result is, that it works more equably, more smoothly, and with less waste of power than any machine that we have ever met with. \* \*

The construction of this machine is such as to produce a sufficient speed for threshing, by a very slow and easy movement of the horses, as will be seen from the following statement.:

The large cog wheel, which is keyed on to the large reel shaft, makes 4 3-7 revolutions to one revolution of the chain. The pinion, which is keyed to the band wheel shaft, and is carried by the large cog wheel, makes 5 1/2 revolutions to one revolution of the large wheel. The diameter of the band wheel is 38 1/2 inches. The average number of revolutions of the chain in one minute, was, according to our observation, while threshing, 6 1/4 to 7.

Assuming seven revolutions per minute, as the true motion of the chain, we have 15 rods less than 1 1/4 miles travel of the horses, in an hour. This slow rate of movement of the chain, adapts it better to the use of oxen, as well as horses, than any others, which require a more rapid rate of travel.

The friction rollers in this machine have a greater diameter than most other machines, being six inches. The result of this is, that they make fewer revolutions on their axes in traveling a given distance, than those of a less diameter, and therefore the friction is proportionally diminished.

The mechanical execution of this power is deserving of high commendation. A very careful examination of every part, showed thorough and conscientious workmanship and material in every place; nothing was slighted; the strength of material was admirably distributed, and the gearing was very superior throughout. The boxes of the main shaft were of metal, which run without heating. \* \*

We have no hesitation in awarding to this power, a Gold Medal."

### Harder's Combined Thresher and Cleaner.

The following we extract from Committee's report: "Weight of Machine 1,100 lbs. Price, \$210. Dust Flue, Extra-Price, \$10.

This machine is of great value, and has several features different from any thresher and cleaner within our knowledge.

The thresher is overshot. The cylinder is of wood, covered with sheet iron, and heavily banded; is heavier than usual; accurately balanced, so that very little vibration is produced when revolving at its highest speed. The cylinder revolves about 1,100 times a minute, when the horses travel at the rate of 1 1/4 miles per hour. \* \* \*

The arrangements for separating the grain from the straw, are unusually good; two forked arms in the separator are continually rising and falling, which keep the straw loose and facilitate the separation of the grain.

It has a quick vibration of 4 inches. \* \* \*

The sieves are larger than usual; they are five in number, shaken laterally, and are supplied with a very powerful stream of wind.

The mechanical construction and execution are of the very best kind, and we have no hesitation in saying, that in our opinion this machine embodies the greatest advances that have yet been made in the art of separating grain from the straw.

In our trial it threshed 250 bundles of wheat in 40 minutes, producing 11 bushels of clean wheat. It delivered the grain in a very clean and excellent condition. We fully believe it to be admirably adapted to meet the wants of the farmers, and therefore we recommend to the Executive Committee to give a gold medal to this machine."

The above are manufactured by R. & H. Harder, Cobleskill, Schoharie County, New York.



## WHEN TO CUT GRASS FOR HORSES AND COWS.

At the Discussions, at the New York State Agricultural Society, Solon Robinson, of the *New York Tribune*, was called upon by the chairman to state why horsemen in New York preferred mature timothy to that cut green? He answered: Simply because they have found it the most economical. The most careful experiments in feeding 1,000 or 1,200 head of horses, in the Third avenue railroad stables, have been made by the Hon. William A. Darling, president of that company, and the result is a ration of 14 pounds of good sound timothy hay, finely chaffed and wet, and mixed with 16 pounds of corn, oat or wheat meal. Those who feed single horses use uncut hay, but they prefer the grass mature enough for part of the seed to grow, and that is my own experience for horses. For cows I would cut the grass green, but never for a horse; for I have never seen one that would eat aftermath with a relish. Cut your grass as green as you please for cows and calves and sheep, but let it mature for horses, particularly for those that are daily fed with grain, which is always cheaper than hay in New York city; and that is why it is depended upon, and why they are willing to feed hay, which, some of you farmers say, is no better than rye straw. I do not think so. I think a horse fed upon green, grass hay, very liable to the heaves, while one fed upon that which has matured so that you can save hayseed from the manger, is rarely, if ever, troubled with the heaves.

Mr. Curtiss, of Tompkins, remarked that his father cut his hay early, thinking his horses would consume fewer oats thereby, but the animals invariably had the heaves in consequence. He cut his grass later and avoided such troubles. Any horse that eats immoderately of timothy cut in the blow, will have the heaves. If hay was designed for cows, would cut grass early.

A. L. Fish, of Herkimer county, said: So far as experiments in feeding road horses go to prove the best and most economical method, they are beneficial. But in my view the rule will not apply to the farmer who cuts hay for a variety of stock, such as calves, colts, sheep, milch cows, &c. The road horse that eats more grain than hay requires ripe hay or straw to extend the stomach and prevent too rapid fermentation and passing off of the food through the stomach and bowels, and to supply the waste of muscular tissue from severe exercise.—Ripe hay or grain straw contains more silica than dried grass, hence the argument that it will best supply the waste of muscular tissue. Ruminating animals are different from the horse. Calves and lambs will not live upon ripe hay, and milch cows and fat cattle can do much better upon dried grass.

The best time to cut grass for general use is, un-

doubtedly, when it contains the most albumen.—That period in its growth I have assumed to be when it is in blossom. A proper analysis of grass at different stages of its maturity, would aid the farmer much in determining the proper time to cut grass for hay. It is too intricate a problem for the farmer to solve without the aid of the chemist and physiologist, as to what period in the growth and maturity of the plant it should be taken from its sphere and passed over to the animal as a physical medium through which to attain a specific object. Are we not too much in the traditionary habit of feeding the same kind of food to different animals for different purposes; of feeding from the same crib for gross bulk of young animals, for butter, cheese, lard, &c., and for muscular tissue in working animals? And do we not pay too little regard to the future condition of meadows in the time of cutting grass for hay? All meadows should be seeded with several kinds of grass; and as they do not all mature alike, and cannot all be cut at once, I prefer to cut when half is in blossom, then wait till the balance comes into blossom. I prefer cutting too early rather than too late, for the better quality of hay and future benefit of meadows. Our first necessity is to grow a good crop of hay annually, to ensure which meadows should be cut before the grass seeds. To separate the top from the root at a period when nature has made its master effort to perfect the seed, leaves the root in a weak, crippled state, without power to recuperate. If a burning sun is then let in upon them, they will be more likely to perish than if cut earlier, when the root has more recuperative power. I have always observed that meadows do best the ensuing season, after a thrifty growth of top and root of plants. The root suffers from mutilating the top, and the root of any plant will die if its top is frequently cropped closely in the late part of the growing season. Hence the bane of late mowing and fall grazing meadows, and over-stocking pastures. I prefer more nutritious and less bulky food for winter.

The more bulk and woody fiber is eaten, the more cold water is required to be drank, and more food is required to sustain the animal heat in consequence, each making a demand for the other, till the animal is surfeited, and consequent debility and disease ensue. I consider that hay keeps the best in the mow that comes out nearest the color it had when put in. The less heating and fermentation in the mow, the better for all purposes. I believe the best method of curing hay is that which changes its grass color least.

THE FARMER'S ADVERTISER, published monthly by D. Heston, at Philadelphia—50 cents per year. It is devoted to Fruit Culture mainly, and comprises sixteen double column octavo pages. It is well worth the subscription.



## FARMING INDUSTRY.

The following very sensible remarks we cannot resist copying, as they are so full of common sense, and are not only applicable to the people of South Carolina, but may be of advantage to many of our own latitude. The *Yorkville Enquirer*, published at Yorkville, South Carolina, is one of the best papers of its class in the South, and we always read it with interest:

In the columns of this paper, time after time, allusion has been made to the necessity of an improved system of farming, as the surest means of restoring prosperity to our land, plenty to the poverty-stricken, and independence to the oppressed. The ignorance of the commonest principles of farm culture manifested in former days, furnished a more humiliating commentary upon the intelligence of the Southern people, than any separate circumstance connected with their history.

In the days of the past *farming* was seldom a studied occupation in the South. *Planting* on a large scale, with large troops of slaves to cut down timber, and wear out the soil in the cultivation of cotton, with which to buy more slaves and land, was the system in vogue. The man of limited means followed, as far as practicable, the example of his wealthier neighbor, nor even cared to study the fact that his interests lay in a different system. As a general rule, the South was the richest and worst cultivated section of country the world ever afforded. A generous soil, yielding profusely to the rough system of culture engendered by slave labor and large planting, ought surely, under the farming system, to produce all that the heart of the careful husbandman could possibly wish or desire.

The war that swept away with it so many of the customs of the past, has, it seems, in many of the Southern States, obliterated this old barbarity imposed upon the soil. Our young men, in the migratory life they were compelled to lead in the army, became observers of the system adopted upon some of the finest farms in the world—those of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Its close found them bereft of the helps that usually conducted the manual operation of planting, and as a consequence of the scarcity of labor, diligence, study, and the adaptation of improved systems became necessary.

Our farmers were never more in earnest than at the present time, in their efforts to improve the old system of tillage. Nor have we ever seen an exhibition of greater energy than is apparent throughout the upper sections of this State, in the preparations now being made for the coming-crop. The old plan of planting twenty-five acres to the hand is gone, and we hope forever. The importance of employing the aid of fertilizers,—of saving the scrapings of the

barn-yard and applying them to the exhausted soil—of limited and well cultivated crops, is beginning to be fully appreciated. This State alone, poor as it is, is employing, we venture to say, the present year, a greater quantity of imported manures than it did altogether for the ten years preceding the war. In this District the supply could not keep pace with the demand, so fully have our farmers become imbued with the idea of their efficacy.

Just here, however, permit us to suggest that this laudable desire for improvement is likely to run into the opposite extreme. The model husbandman manufactures his own manures from the stable, the cow lot, straw pile, the sweepings of litter from his out-houses, the ditch embankment, mould from fence corners, bones, carcasses, offal, and a thousand other sources that his own ingenuity alone can suggest.—These, after flooring his cattle-pens for the winter, are superior, when obtained in sufficient quantities, to the best Peruvian Guano, and cost the farmer nothing but the employment of his otherwise idle winter days to collect and distribute.

Everywhere over the breadth of the upper Districts of this State, we are informed, the same spirit of improvement exists, that we so gladly announce as prevailing here. It affords us a hopeful augury, and the chief one, for the future of our State. When South Carolinians learn to farm instead of to plant, and when these same men study to improve old systems, adopt new ideas, and educate their children in husbandry instead of politics, we may expect for our dear old State a degree of prosperity as far surpassing that of the past, as her present poverty degrades it.

We cannot more fitly close this article, than by suggesting to our farmers the importance of each one subscribing for some good agricultural journal, and the necessity of a study of its contents. The experiments of practical men—the adaptation of soils, manures, seeds, and a thousand other facts are thus placed in the hands of the intelligent farmer, by which he may readily profit. If profited by rightly, these are worth more than a ton of guano annually, valuable as that is. The *American Farmer*, and the *Maryland Farmer*, published at Baltimore, and the *Southern Cultivator*, at Athens, Georgia, are among the best we have seen. Copies of these publications may be seen, by calling at the ENQUIRER Office.

A NEW SPRING WHEAT.—A correspondent of the *Canada Farmer* strongly recommends a variety of spring wheat, called the Platt Midge Proof. It is said to have been brought from France, four years ago. It is said to weigh 60 pounds to the measured bushel and produced 138½ bushels from ¾ bushels sown on three acres of land:

## THE DOG NUISANCE.

The Agricultural Report for March furnishes us some statistics on the dog, and demonstrates how extensive the nuisance has become. The argument advanced refers to the mongrel curs, for none but these are so worthless in every particular. The dog that is bred for a purpose has a definite object in life, but the nameless bastards that are born by the thousand to a vagrant existence, have no aim and are fitted for no purpose—at least none calculated to benefit mankind. They sleep in the sunshine, snarl at your heels, fight over a bone, and prowl the country, like the sneaking cowards they are, and become involved in all manner of mischief. In fact, they seem to have a clear conception of wrong, and they practice what they best understand. They are known to be idle vagrants, and yet they are tolerated in nearly every farm yard throughout the United States. They meet every stranger at the gate with a noisy barking, if they are not too lazy to open their eyes, as if the requisites of a watch dog were clamor and bustle, instead of judgment and decision. They throng the streets of villages and growl at every passer by, but slink away in cowardice when you turn upon them to punish them for their insolence. They snap and snarl, the world over, during the day, and they render the soft moonlight nights hideous with their unearthly yells. "Few are aware," says the Report, "of the immense losses inflicted upon the productive industry of the country by these pests. Every local attempt to ascertain these damages reveals astounding facts. Returns have been received in this division of the department of agriculture within a few weeks from 539 counties, in every State in the Union except the Pacific States, showing an aggregated estimate of 130,000 sheep killed by dogs in about one-fourth of the whole number of counties. On this basis the total number killed would be more than half a million yearly. Then the number injured, assuming as a basis the proportion reported from actual account in a series of years in Ohio, would be more than three hundred thousand more; more than eight hundred thousand sheep killed or mutilated yearly, and a two per cent. tax levied upon the total investment in sheep, a loss equal to one-third of the gross income from six per cent. stocks." This assumption may be a startling one, nevertheless it is fully warranted by the facts. A nice little item, certainly, to place against the already worthless credit of the vagrant curs! For 1866 alone the loss to the United States from the killing and maiming of sheep by dogs is estimated at \$2,600,000.—"The cost of keeping dogs," continues the Report, "most of them utterly worthless, when calculated for the whole country; assumes startling proportions:

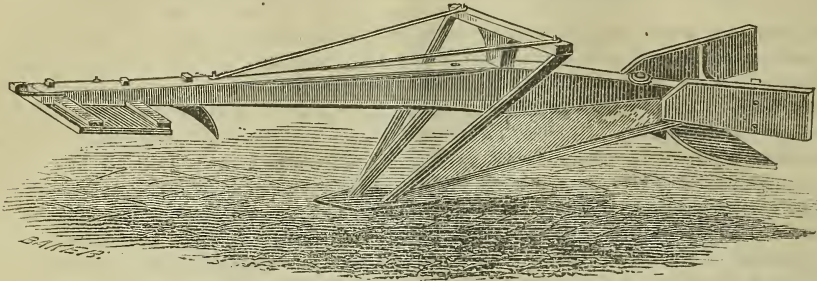
The estimate made in the Report of 1863, of \$10 per annum, or less than one cent per meal, cannot be considered extravagant, 'in view of price paid for boarding dogs, the cost of keeping large numbers of them in cities, and their exclusive consumption of meat. As to their numbers, it is believed by many that they will average one to each family, or seven millions in the United States. In cities and towns that average would not be reached, while many a pack of hounds and assemblage of curs of low degree might be found in the ownership of single families. Possibly seven millions may be too large. Ohio, with half a million families, is supposed by many to have half a million dogs, although little more than one-third of that number are found on the assessors' books. It may be assumed, in view of all the data obtained, as a low estimate, that there are five millions of dogs in the United States, and that their subsistence involves an expenditure of fifty millions of dollars."

With these facts before us, does it not seem strange that the mongrels should be tolerated to the extent they are? When properly bred the dog is a useful animal, and he wins our lasting friendship by his sagacity and fidelity, but when he is the bastard descendant of a nameless ancestry he is worse than worthless—a positive nuisance. The mongrel curs are a disgrace to the name of dog, and a sense of duty to the noble and faithful animal should induce us to wipe out the disgrace by purifying the channels of blood. A general dog tax will do much towards abating the nuisance. If people are so indifferent to their own interests as to tolerate worthless curs, they are not so insane as to pay a premium for keeping them. In the breeding of all animals for practical or ornamental purposes, some attention is paid to principles of blood, and we are at a loss to understand why dogs should be excepted from the general rule. A little more attention to this matter would prove beneficial to the country. The sooner the mongrel breeds are swept from the face of the earth the greater will be the profits resulting to sheep growers and to the present harborers of the lazy curs. They can degenerate no farther, so it is time that an effort was made to elevate their condition, and to make them of some practical use to mankind.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

[So great has been the destruction of sheep by these mongrels in Maryland, for years back, that many of our people have abandoned sheep husbandry altogether. But notwithstanding this intolerable evil, the men sent to represent us in the Legislature of the State, with a spirit more cowardly than the curs, have refused to give that adequate protection so much needed by legislation or taxation. But the farmer may blame himself, as he is willing to suffer this great loss as a tribute to "dog and gun,"]



## TOBIAS' OPEN DITCHER.



The above is a representation of Tobias' Open Ditcher, for the drainage of lands. It is represented as simple, strong and durable, and worked with four yokes of oxen and two men will excavate from one hundred to one hundred and fifty rods of ditch per day—making a ditch four feet in width on the surface, two feet deep and one foot wide at the bottom. It has been in use since 1863, and has thus far given satisfaction. It will cut a perfect ditch with one operation, throwing the dirt on each side about two feet from the edge, and can be used to drain the worst sloughs, doing the best work in wet ground where the water will follow. It is drawn by a capstan, usually worked with cattle, and has been made to cut as much as 190 rods in a day.—Various sizes can be made, of dimensions to suit any emergency. Many of them are in operation in the State of Illinois, east of the Illinois river, and are reported as giving entire satisfaction, by reliable gentlemen who have worked them. Price \$200.

Those interested in a machine of this kind can be furnished with all the necessary information by addressing Benjamin Tobias, patentee, Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois.

**MESQUITE GRASS.**—We have already noticed, in our remarks on Texas, that a valuable ship timber of that name is found in the prairies, always indicating first-rate soil; but there is a grass of that name, which is perennial, and of admirable qualities. It resembles blue grass more than any other grass in a Southern climate; and, though more delicate in appearance, yields an abundant pasture. It is not known that any experiments have been made toward its introduction into a middle latitude, but it seems to supply the want, in the South, of blue grass, which is indigenous to the North. It provides ample pasture, in many portions of Texas, during winter, and may be regarded as another of the considerations which make that State desirable as a field for enterprise. It is easily distinguished from the ordinary prairie grass, is much more nutritious, and is gradually extending over large districts in the State.—*Ind. & Com. Gaz.*

## Clover on Light Soils.

A correspondent in the *Hammonton Culturist* communicates the following on this subject:

"There is a general impression that light soils will not produce clover. Admitting that they are not as well adapted to this grass as heavier soils, it is far from being the fact that they will not produce it at all, or that good crops of clover may not be grown on them. Let me refer to the crops of And. K. Hay, Esq., at Winslow, whose lands are naturally light, but who, by a judicious system of manuring and cultivation, has succeeded in bringing them to a condition of fertility which not only yields him remunerative crops, but among them those which, heretofore, it has been considered impossible to grow profitably on light soils, such as wheat, rye, corn, and more particularly clover. Now, clover, of all others, is the crop which farmers on light soils should cultivate. It has a large tap root, derives a great proportion of its substance from the atmosphere, and as light soils are naturally deficient in vegetable matter, the large amount of tap root furnishes this most desirable material. A dressing of lime, say twenty bushels to the acre, and a moderate application of barn-yard manure, or superphosphate of lime, will insure, in nine cases out of ten, a good crop of clover, while the after results will more than compensate for the outlay for manures."

**HUNGARIAN GRASS.**—This grass produces from 2 to 4 tons of hay per acre, of the best quality; but it should be cut before the seed is fully ripe, as the oil in it, when mature, injures horses. Sow in the latitude of New England, down to Maryland, the last week in May. A half bushel of seed is enough per acre. Any soil that will produce a fair crop of corn or potatoes, will produce from two to three tons of this hay. Sward land is as suitable for it as any other. The hay is of a finer and better quality than that produced from the common millet seed. Good crops may be grown, when the seed is sown as late as June 10th; but when the land is ready for it, it is better to sow early.—*Rural American.*



## Tobacco Culture.

### WHEN IS TOBACCO RIPE ?

This is, in truth, a simple question, and every one will answer it by saying, when it has arrived at, or attained to perfection. But the great difficulty is, to know certainly when that is—to understand the accompanying indications. To a novice, this is a difficult question, and will remain one until he has seen a specimen—a plant of ripe tobacco; then it is plain. As in many other plants, the ripeness of tobacco is known *principally by its color*; and it is no easy matter to describe, with absolute accuracy, any particular shade of color; but there are other signs accompanying, which have reference to the *general appearance* of the plant. With a little judgment and discrimination, the following rule will be found to answer. I will first observe that, all things favorable, tobacco can be *primed* and *topped* in six or seven weeks after planting; and may be *cut* in as many weeks, after topping, as there are leaves left on the stalk.

When a plant begins to ripen, it will gradually assume a "piebald" or spotted appearance. As the ripening advances the spots become more distinct and individualized. When the spots can be distinguished at the distance of ten steps, and the leaves of the plant turn down, become stiff to the touch, and their ends curl under, the plant is ripe, and should be cut. From the moment it has arrived at maturity it begins to decay.

**CUTTING.**—Remember that all the plants in your crop are to be *hung* after they are cut—hung on something, and *by* something. Prepare a knife—a butcher-knife answers well—have it sharp—enter it at the top of the plant, where the top was broken off. Enter it centrally; press it downwards, dividing the stalk into two equal portions. Continue it downwards until within five inches of the ground. Withdraw the knife, and cut off the stalk close to the ground. The plant is now cut. Lay it on the ground with the lower end towards the sun. The plants should be placed in rows as they are cut, in order to facilitate the labor of gathering them.—There is one caution to be heeded in cutting tobacco, and that is, do not let it be burnt or *blistered* by the heat of the sun. In some varieties of tobacco this will be effected in one hour; in others, not so soon. But this danger can be evaded in two ways: first, by cutting late in the evening; second, by throwing it in the shade, or covering it so as to weaken the power of the sun. Some varieties of tobacco will wilt (that is, become soft or limber) in two hours; others, in a longer time, according to the degree of sun-heat.—*Tobacco Leaf.*

### Topping and Suckering.

**TOPPING** is done to throw the strength, which would go to develop seeds, into the leaves. It must, therefore, be done as early as the seed-buds show themselves, if not earlier. This work *must* be done, and the question is how to do it. If there are but few leaves on the plant, even these will not ripen if it is not topped; if there are many, then the grower has the choice either to break off the flower-stalk only or to take off one or more leaves also. This should be done in answer to the questions: 1st. Is there time enough to ripen even the upper leaves fully? and, 2d, Are the plant and the soil strong enough to ripen all leaves, even the upper ones?—The answers to these queries will decide the way of topping. If yes, he takes off the flower-stalk only; if no, he tops to eight, ten, twelve, fourteen, or sixteen leaves, according to his judgment—that is, he allows so many leaves to remain on the plant. Here will be seen the importance and benefit of starting the plants early from seed. This alone may increase the yield one half.

**SUCKERING** follows shortly after topping, and is done for the same reason—to concentrate the strength of the plants in the leaves. A sucker is a little branch appearing at the place where the stem of the tobacco-leaf joins the stalk. They draw off nutriment, while they will never be good for anything, and therefore must be removed. This is one of the tiresome operations in tobacco culture, for these suckers do not all appear at the same time; they first appear on the lower leaves, and then on the middle, and lastly at the top leaves. They even push out again sometimes after they have been removed. They demand the planter's whole attention, and he has no rest on account of them, until the plant is fully matured.

Priming, topping, and suckering must not be done during a rain, or when the dew is on the plant, or they will get rust-spots, which will get larger every day and at last destroy the whole leaf.—*Tobacco Leaf.*

### How to Destroy the Tobacco Fly.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Louisville *Courier* thus describes the results of his experiments in destroying the tobacco fly, which we give for the benefit of those engaged in tobacco culture:

"Having like all other tobacco planters, suffered for years by the ravages of this destructive and annoying insect, I proceeded to watch its movements and ascertain its habits. I found it intensely fond of sucking at the bloom of the Jamestown, more generally speaking the 'Jimson' weed, wild morning glory, etc., but especially the former. Accordingly, at the time of setting out the plants, I set out among

them some eight or ten 'Jimson' plants, which, like all other evil weeds, grew up and bloomed just in time for the objects of this cuss of an insect. I procured from a druggist about an ounce of pulverized fly powder, or fly stone, mixed it with water, making it very sweet with honey (sugar or molasses will do as well) put it in a half-pint bottle with a cork stopper, into which I inserted a goose quill. Thus armed and equipped, I went every evening between sunset and twilight and dropped about three drops of the mixture into the bloom of the 'Jimson,' and the next day would pick up handfuls of the insects lying dead under the nearest trees, or in the corn field closest to the tobacco patch."

### LINSEED.

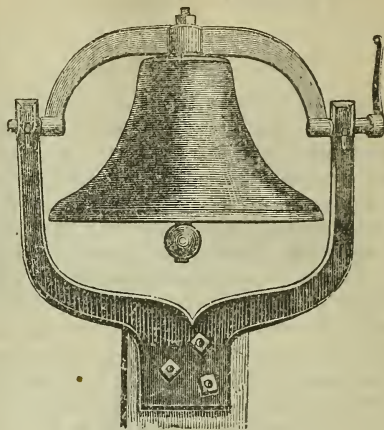
This is the seed of the common flax, and is one of the most valuable seeds cultivated for oil. The process of growing, pulling, rotting, and dressing, is familiar to most farmers, though such is the value of the lint, or flax, and the seed that we think the culture might be profitably extended. For common painting, the linseed oil is the best that can be procured, and it forms the base of all varnishes into which oil enters as a part. After the oil is expressed from the seeds, the residue, called oil cake, is one of the most nutritive substances used, and is justly celebrated for fattening animals. When cattle are to be fed on oil cake, they are usually put up at the end of the grass season. The cake, broken or ground fine in mills, is fed to them at a rate of about four quarts a day each, one-half in the morning and the other at night. With the oil cake, is also fed cut hay or straw, cob meal, or inferior grain or other matters; and the result is they fatten very rapidly. A small quantity of oil cake fed to horses, during winter, gives their coat a fine sleek appearance, as well as improve their condition. Oil cake is sometimes fed to milk cows, but while it increases the milk, it has the effect of giving it a somewhat unpleasant taste.

The imports of linseed into the United States, for the year 1859 (almost entirely from India,) were 2,348,777 bushels. This yielded 5,000,000 gallons

The imports of linseed into the United States, for the year 1859 (almost entirely from India,) were 2,348,777 bushels. This yielded 5,000,000 gallons of oil, valued at 56 cents per gallon—\$2,800,000; and 41,400 tons of cake at \$32=\$1,324,800; total \$4,124,800. The seed cost, \$1.50 per bushel, \$3,523,165, which, deducted from the above, leaves \$601,635 for the cost and profit of manufacturing.

A young man on kissing a girl "down South," asked how it was that she was so sweet? "Oh," she replied, in utter innocence—"my father is a sugar planter!"

### STEEL AMALGAM BELLS.



FARM BELLS.

Mr. E. A. Riehl, in the *Farmer's Advertiser*, enforces the following sound reasons why every farmer should have a bell:

That farm bells are not in as general use among Farmers as they ought to be is a fact. The reason of it no doubt is, that they do not know their value.

\* \* \* But some one asks: what are the advantages of having a bell? First, you can do things more systematically. In the morning you ring the bell to let your hired help, and others, know that your are up, and its time they were. Five minutes before breakfast is ready, tap the bell to call all hands to the house. At halfpast eleven, ring your bell for the teams to come home and be fed; then again at twelve for the men to come to the house and get their dinners. At one, tap the bell to go to work. At evening, ring to come home, and again for supper.

Having fixed your hours and regulations thus, your men will know what to do, and not spend so much time in looking at the sun and guessing what time it might be; coming home half an hour or more before the time, or as much too late, and keep the meal waiting for them; every thing works like clock work and no needless time is lost.

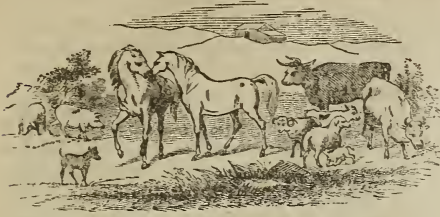
Should a stranger or neighbor call to see the proprietor, and he be out, no one knowing in what part of the farm he is, it will not be necessary to send some one to hunt him up, but give the bell a few taps, which he will hear, and know that he is wanted.

Do you doubt a bell would be a good thing near your kitchen door? If you do, ask your wife, and see if she don't vote for the bell.

[The price of the Steel Amalgam Bells, according to diameter and weight, in the Baltimore market, from \$7 to \$13.]



## Live Stock Register.



### HOW TO SHEAR SHEEP.

In the *Ohio Farmer* of the 20th of April, I noticed an article on sheep shearing, and as I am an old hand at the business and think I have a great deal better method of shearing, I will give it you. The kind of shears, manner of using and sharpening, is very good, but the manner of holding the sheep I consider very bad.

I will give you my plan: Have a clean spot on the barn floor or a clean plank if more convenient; place the sheep upon its rump, resting its back against your legs. Commence shearing on the right jaw, shearing that side of the head; part the wool on a line from the throat to the bare spot on the inside of the fore leg on the same side, shearing as far down on the side of the neck as is convenient; then shear down the belly to the hind legs, then turn and shear the other side of the head and neck. This done, pass your left hand under the sheep's neck and take hold of the left front leg above the knee, then take the right hind leg above the knee in your right hand and lift the sheep upon a table about the height of a flour barrel, stand between the sheep's front and hind legs, the sheep laying nearly on its back, but resting heavily against the shearer. Commence shearing at the hind leg and shear that side, rolling the sheep towards you as you proceed, until you have sheared over the back bone, turning the wool from you as you proceed.

When you have done this side roll the sheep on its back, drawing the wool as near the sheep as possible, then run your left arm under the sheep's neck, gathering the wool between your arms and the neck, taking the left hand hold of the left fore leg above the knee; then lift the sheep with the left arm and place the right hand against the sheep's hip, pushing it in front of you in an upright position; then change the right hand from the hip to the sheep's fore leg and the left to the hind leg, and complete the turning.

The shearer standing between the legs as before, commence on the fore leg and finish shearing, keeping fleece behind the sheep's back. Then step back and let the sheep drop on his feet, as he will invari-

ably do, as his feet and legs protrude over the edge of the bench.

The advantages of this method over any other are, it is a great saving of strength, and the wool can be kept in better order than in any other way. A common man can shear from thirty to sixty sheep in a day, according to quality, and do it well. I have sheared with men (old shearers) who sheared as your correspondent proposes, who changed and tried my plan, and said they could shear once and a half as many sheep with the same work as in the old way.—P. G. HIBBARD, in *Ohio Farmer*.

### Dogs vs. Sheep.

We take the following from an article contributed to the *American Stock Journal* by R. C. Kendall, and commend the practice to our farmers. The plan appears feasible, and we all know that a sheep-killing dog is not likely to encounter the horns of cattle. Such dogs are generally cowards, and cattle have an instinctive dislike to them and will resist their presence:

"Young cattle, both heifers and bullocks, are mated and herded with lambs, until they become mutually attached to each other, the early training of the young horned stock being to bate them with dogs, teasing and fretting them, until they utterly detest the whole canine race, and at sight of the cur one of the trained bovine will set up a roar, and make a furious drive at the intruder, and away goes the dog for his life as fast as he can leg it; or, presuming to show fight, he gets a thrust or toss into the air that punches or chucks all the appetite for a meal of mutton out of him in a wink. Sometimes each one of the bovine sheep guardians is provided with a bell, and then upon the occasion of a canine raid, either by night or day, the sheep fly by instinct to their natural protectors, who, with fierce bellows, jangling metal, and headlong charges, soon clear the field of the sheep-killing curs.

As in all parts of South America where sheep are kept, they appear to do better by having a few horned cattle herded with them, while the bovine stock are certainly improved by living among and associating with their woolly companions, I see no reason why the same rule should not work well in the United States."

**BACKING IN THE STABLES.**—A celebrated veterinarian says that if a person will stand for a few moments with his toes higher than his heels, the pain he will feel in the calves of his legs will explain to him the reason why horses that are tied in stalls, try to find their own level by standing across the stalls, or backing as far as the halter will permit.—In many stables the floors slant considerable, so as to throw off the urine, and the horse backs in order to find the ascent of the other side of the gutter,



## FATTENING ANIMALS.

There are some rules which may be advantageously adopted in feeding animals, which, however obvious, are often passed over or neglected, and we propose to lay before our readers a few of these rules.

It is evident that when we wish to fatten an animal, we must not expect any labor of him, and hence the food for a fattening animal should be given to him in that form which will require the least labor on his part to convert it into the proper shape for swallowing. The ox that is obliged to wander over an acre to get the food which he should find on a few square rods—the horse that is three or four hours eating the coarse food he would swallow (just as well masticated) in fifteen minutes, if the grain was ground, and the hay cut as it should be—the sheep that spends hours in making its way into a turnip which, if it were sliced, it would eat in as many minutes—the pig that would consume time and waste grain in eating corn off the cob, when it would make more fat and less work for it if it had been ground and mixed with water—may indeed fatten, but much less rapidly than if there food was given to them in a proper manner. From this we may deduce the rule that all food intended for a fattening animal should as far as possible be put into proper *swallowing* order before the animal gets it.

From the time the fattening process begins until it is fully accomplished, the animal should never be without food. Health and appetite will be best promoted by a change of food rather than by limiting the quantity.

The animal that is stuffed and starved by turns may have streaked meat, but is made too slowly either for the pleasure or profit of the farmer. When asked to account for the fine appearance of his pen of fat hogs, a farmer answered that "he never allowed them to squeal." This is a great point. When we approach a hog pen, and the contents set up a universal squeal, we know something is wrong either in bed or board; and when on going into a sheep-fold causes a universal bleating, it is a sign that food or salt is wanted there.

Another important point, which is second only to quantity, is that the food should be given at regular periods as well as in regular quantities. If fed irregularly, the animal, although it may have enough, will soon acquire a restless disposition, is disturbed by every appearance of its keeper, and is never in that quiet state which so much promotes the laying on of fat. To those who have not tried it, it will be surprising how soon an animal acquires habits of regularity in feeding, and how soon the influence of this is felt in the improvement of his condition.—When at the regular hour the pig has had its "pud-ding," and the sheep his turnips, they compose themselves for rest with the consciousness that their

digestion will not be disturbed or their quiet broken by unwonted invitations to eat.

All animals fatten better in the dark than in the light, and this can only be accounted for by the increased quiet. In the dark the animal remains perfectly quiet, while in the light the reverse is often the case. Some kinds of stock which are the most irritable in confinement, as turkeys and geese, are found to lay on fat best when confined in the dark and fed only at stated periods. There is no surer proof that a pig is doing well than to see him eat his meal quickly and go to bed to sleep until feeding time again.

Animals while fattening should never be alarmed, never rapidly driven, never fed at unreasonable hours; and above all things never be allowed to be in want of food even for half an hour.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

## Beecher on Fast Horses.

If a horse has had swiftness put into him, it is fair to give him a chance; be sure that you have let go of him, and then with a squeal he lets fly his heels in the air, till the sun flashes from his polished shoes, then off he goes faster, fiercer, clear across the lot, till the fence brings him up. And then his eye flashing, his mane lifted and swelling, his tail up like a king's sceptre, he snorts a defiance to you from afar; and with series of rearings, running sideways, pawings and plungings, friskings and whirls, he starts again, with immense enjoyment, into another round of running. Do you not see that it is more than fun? It is ecstasy. It is horse rapture!

I never see such a spectacle that I am not painfully impressed with the inhumanity of not letting horses run. Fastness is a virtue. Our mistaken moderation is depriving him of it. I drive fast on principle. I do it for the sake of being at one with nature. To drive slow, only and always, is to treat a horse as if he were an ox. You may be slow, if you think proper. But your horse should be kept up to nature. He would have had but two legs, if it was meant that he should go only at a "go-to-meeting" pace. He has four legs. Of course he ought to do a good deal with them.—*Henry Ward Beecher.*

**INFLAMED MOUTH IN HORSES.**—Inflamed, tender and tumefaction of the horse's mouth, arising from whatever cause it may, generally indicates the application of cooling and astringent lotion, composed of solution of hydrochlorate of ammonia or chlorate of potassa, are indicated when the mouth is hot or inflamed. A tender mouth accompanied by corrugations and relaxations of the soft plate known as "lamps," requires a few applications of some stringent lotion made of alum, gum catechu, raspberry leaves, white oak bark, or diluted tincture of muriate of iron.—*Vet. Journal.*

## USEFUL RECIPES.

**TICKS ON SHEEP.**—Killing ticks on sheep is readily accomplished by a dip in tobacco water. Lambs can be taken by the legs and dipped in all over, keeping the eyes and nose out; but heavy Leicesters can be made to stand in a wide tub or trough and the liquid poured along the back and sopped into the wool, and after standing a few minutes squeeze out the surplus water and let the sheep go. To make the liquid, boil leaf tobacco or stems to make a strong tea—say 8 or 10 lbs. for 50 sheep.—*Ohio Far.*

**CURES FOR POLL EVIL.**—J. E. Cole, Steuben county, N. Y., says he never failed to cure poll evil by first "washing the core clean with warm soap-suds, and then sprinkling on a teaspoonful of saleratus once a day until a cure is effected, which will be speedy."

L. P. W., Troy, Pa., says: "Take four quarts of mandrake roots, boil them in water to get a strong decoction, then add one pint of hogs' lard and simmer it down to a salve. This is rubbed on once a day and heated in with a warm shovel. I have tried it for twenty years and never knew it to fail."

**GARGET.**—The treatment recommended by Dr. Dadd is to perseveringly foment the teats or quarters that have become hot and tender, with an infusion of elder or camomile flowers, at the same time drawing, in the most gentle manner, a small quantity of milk. He then gives an aperient—one pint of linseed oil and the yolks of two eggs, or one pint of sweet oil and half a teaspoonful of cayenne pepper—and keeps the animal on light diet. If there is danger of matter forming, rub the bag with equal parts of goose oil and hot drops. If the parts are exceedingly painful, a wash of weak lye, or wood ashes, or sal soda, is recommended. If necessity compels the use of the lancet, after the matter is evacuated, the part is washed clean, and a stimulating liniment applied.

**MANGEY CALVES.**—Mange is due to the presence of parasites, and can be communicated by contact, consequently diseased animals should be separated from healthy ones. Dr. Dadd recommends the following treatment: Let the animal have a tablespoonful of sulphur in the food for three or four days in succession; in the meantime, anoint the affected parts daily with a portion of the following:—Cod liver oil, 6 ounces; sublimated sulphur, 2 ounces. Mix, and apply by means of a sponge. In the course of four or five days wash the surface of the body with warm water and soap, and then give the body a thorough sponging with the following: Lime water, 1 quart; sublimated sulphur, 2 ounces. This treatment generally cures the most inveterate cases.

**SCRATCHES IN HORSES.**—In reply to calls for scratches in horses, we give the following:—Take a heaping tablespoonful of powdered alum and burn it slowly. Fill a quart bottle with one part beef brine, one part alcohol, and one part urine—into which place the burned alum, and wait for the latter to dissolve thoroughly. Wash the fetlock joint carefully with warm castile soap-suds, and then bathe the parts with the above described decoction. We have tried it often, and it never fails to effect a cure.

**HOW TO STOP HENS FROM SETTING.**—I fasten a string to the hen's leg, say four or five feet in length, and tie the other end to a stake driven into the ground, close to the path where you are in the habit of passing frequently, and scare her as often as you go that way. One day effects a cure.—*Cor. Rural American.*

**LICE ON SHEEP.**—Open the wool from head to tail, and scatter in a small quantity of Scotch snuff, which is sure to kill them.

## BULLARD'S HAY TEDDER.



From the Committee's Report on the Second National Trial of Mowers, Reapers, Horsepowers, &c., held at Auburn, New York, in July last, we make the following extracts on Hay Tedders. These Tedders have been used for several seasons on the Hay Farm of Ross Winans, Esq., of Baltimore city, with great satisfaction:

"Bullard's Patent Hay Tedder, was very thoroughly tested in clover, in timothy, and in fine grass—in windrows as well as in swath—it received the unanimous approval of the judges, and we believe of all the farmers who saw it in action. We think the introduction of this machine will be of the greatest importance to hay makers. It certainly fitted the clover for going into the barn at least one day earlier than would have been safe for clover which had not been subjected to its action. And every kind of hay, when worked over by the Tedder, was cured with much less exposure to the sun than would otherwise have been possible.

The machine is admirably contrived to accomplish the work it was designed for, though we should have been glad to bestow a higher compliment upon its mechanical execution than candor will permit us to do. The two-horse machine weighs 525 lbs., and is sold for \$85. It also has a pair of thills, which are always sent with it, so that it may be used as a one-horse machine at the pleasure of the owner. The one-horse machine is sold at \$75. Two extra forks, a wrench and an oil can, are sent with each machine, and are included in the price named above.

The tedder is mounted on a pair of wheels, 30 inches in diameter; a spur wheel is attached to the arms of each wheel, being cast in the same piece with it; an intermediate wheel connects it with a pinion on the crank shaft, so that the latter shaft makes 5 revolutions for every 7½ feet that the machine advances; this shaft has eight cranks of 7 inches rise, set spirally around it, so that the forks successively pass through every possible angle of elevation and depression at each revolution. Each fork is attached to the end of a jointed lever, which is worked by the cranks, giving the forks when in motion, the appearance of a hen's leg in the act of scratching up dirt, and throwing it spitefully behind her. This singular motion never failed to elicit peals of laughter from the spectators whenever it appeared in the field.

The machine teded an acre of heavy clover, easily in 15 minutes, while the horses were working at a natural gait (for the driver was not aware that we were taking his time), and 4 acres an hour was the average time in all the trials which we made with it. \* \* \* The stirring of the hay was very complete, every portion of it was tossed rapidly into the air, and left on the ground where it fell in a light fleecy condition, just as a farmer would desire to have it.

We recommend to the executive committee to award a gold medal to Silas C. Herring, for Bullard's patent Hay Tedder, entry No. 18."



# THE MARYLAND FARMER

AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM,

PUBLISHED ON THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH,

BY

**S. SANDS MILLS & CO.**

No. 24 South Calvert Street.

CORNER OF MERCER,

**BALTIMORE.**

S. SANDS MILLS, } PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.  
E. WHITMAN, }

**BALTIMORE, JUNE 1, 1867.**

## TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

\$1.50 per annum, in advance—6 copies for \$7.50—10 copies \$12.00.

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1 " 6 " .....	75 00
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1/2 Page, single insertion .....	12 00
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Cards of 10 lines, yearly. Half yearly, \$7.	
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**INTERESTING TO FARMERS.**—Among the recent changes in the Internal Revenue Laws is one allowing one thousand dollars, instead of six hundred, to be deducted from income returns. Among the articles placed upon the free list, are the following, all either produced or in common use among the farmers: Canned and preserved vegetables and fruits, fabrics produced on hand looms, apple parers, bee hives, casks, churns, barrels, horse rakes, horse powers, harrows, hay forks, hoes, portable grinding mills, horse blankets, forks, garden engines, hydraulic rams, washing and wringing machines, spinning wheels, and farm wagons and carts. These changes will relieve the farming community of considerable taxation.

**MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.**—Capt. Charles L. C. Minor, of Hanover county, Va., says the *Richmond Whig*, has recently been appointed to the presidency of the Maryland Agricultural College, and will enter upon its duties the 1st October next. The compensation attached to the office is a salary of \$2,500, and the use of a house. Captain Minor is a gentleman of high character and attainments; a master of arts of the University of Virginia, and a teacher of considerable experience. We congratulate the college upon his selection.

## SPLENDID COMBINATION!

Two First-Class Rural Journals for \$3.50!

**THE MARYLAND FARMER,**  
(A Standard Monthly,)

AND

**MOORE'S RURAL NEW YORKER,**  
(The Leading Agricultural, Literary and Family Weekly.)

It will be seen by an advertisement in another column, that we have entered into an arrangement whereby we can furnish the *MARYLAND FARMER* and the *RURAL NEW YORKER* one year for \$3.50—by far the most liberal offer ever made the Rural public.

The *RURAL* is the best Weekly Journal of its class in the world—has the largest circulation—is ably edited—best illustrated—has a complete corps of contributors, and adapted to all classes of Rural Readers, the truth of which is verified by its extended circulation, now reaching 75,000. The reduced rates for the two puts it in the power of all our people, whose pecuniary need has prevented them from indulging in so great a necessity, to now possess themselves of the *Best Weekly*, Agricultural, Literary and Family paper in the country—and an agricultural *Monthly* that ranks high among the Standard Magazines of the day. This liberal reduction is made, at this time, to meet the wants of a large class who believe a few dollars invested in good papers is a profitable investment both for the farmer and the household.

Subscription to the *RURAL* alone \$3 per year—to the *FARMER*, \$1.50—both for \$3.50.

## BOOK NOTICES.

**AMERICAN POMOLOGY—APPLES.**—By Dr. John A. Warder, President of the Ohio Pomological Society, &c., with 293 illustrations. Published by Orange Judd & Co., New York.

The reputation of Dr. Warder as a pomologist is too well established to leave any doubt as to the character of this work. It is a complete and exhaustive treatise on the apple, describes minutely the numerous varieties of this fine fruit, and furnishes all the information necessary to its proper cultivation. It is a book that eminently deserves to have a place in every farmer's library. Price \$3.

**A SUCCINCT EXPOSITION OF THE Industrial Resources and Agricultural Advantages of the State of Maryland.**—By James Higgins, A. M., M. D.

Dr. Higgins, who has recently been appointed agent of immigration for the State of Maryland, has done good service in the preparation of this work, for which his previous labors as the State Agricultural Chemist gave him a manifest advantage. It is brief but clear, as such an exposition should be, and sets forth the resources of Maryland in the most popular and instructive way. We have every reason to hope that this pamphlet will accomplish much good.



## AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The eleventh session of this Society will commence in the city of St. Louis, Mo., on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1867, and will continue several days. All Horticultural, Pomological, Agricultural, and other kindred institutions in the United States and British Provinces are invited to send delegations as large as they may deem expedient; and all other persons interested in the cultivation of fruits are invited to be present and take seats in the Convention.

The prominent subject which will come before the Society at this session will be the revision of the Society's Catalogue of Fruits. The several State Pomological and Horticultural Associations are requested to compile lists for their own States or Districts, and forward them to P. Barry, of Rochester, N. Y. Marshall P. Wilder, is President, and James Vick, Secretary, of this Association.

## Utica Plow Trial Postponed.

Owing to the heavy rains the great trial of plows to be held at Utica, New York, on the 7th of May was postponed. The grounds were so thoroughly overflowed that it was impossible to test the plows, and consequently the trial was adjourned until a fortnight before the State Fair. It was decided that no new entries should be made, and "that the competition for prizes offered by the society should be confined to the implements now entered." Mr. A. P. Routt, of Virginia, was present with his Surface Drain Plow.

FREDERICK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the Frederick County Agricultural Society, held on May the 18th, the following gentlemen were elected as officers for the current year, viz:—President, C. Keefer Thomas; Vice-President, John Loats; Recording Secretary, William Mahony; Corresponding Secretary, James McSherry, Jr.; Treasurer, Gen. Edward Shriver. The election of District Vice-Presidents was deferred until the meeting to take place in August next.

A CHEAP AND DURABLE WASH FOR BARNS.—Mr. S. Wasson, in the Maine Farmer, gives the following as a good substitute for paint for out-buildings:—"The ingredients are unslacked lime, white vitriol and salt—the proportions one bushel of lime (slack with hot water), two and a half pounds of white vitriol, and four pounds of salt—to give a drab color add half a pound of French blue and two lbs. of Indian red—whole cost \$1.10 for wash enough to give 7000 square feet two coats of paint that will wear like iron."

Deep plowing greatly improves the productive powers of every variety of soil that is not wet.

## The Rockbridge Alum Springs, Va.

We notice from the advertisement in this issue that these famous fountains will be open to the public resort on and after June 1st; and we learn from other sources that the Proprietors are exerting all their accustomed energy to have all things in order for a pleasant and prosperous season.—Parties leaving Baltimore in the early morning train take their tea at these Springs; and the transition from the noise and bustle and heat of the city, to these delightful shades and pastoral valleys in the Virginia Mountains, is of itself a restorative, and much more so when re-enforced with the most salubrious mineral water, and unexceptionable mountain mutton. The attendance last season, we learn, was very large.

## EDITORIAL NOTICES.

☞ New subscribers can be furnished with *Moore's Rural New Yorker* and *Maryland Farmer* for \$3.50. The annual subscription to the "*Rural New Yorker*," \$3; "*Maryland Farmer*," \$1.50.

☞ Old subscribers can be furnished with *Moore's Rural New Yorker*, (the best weekly of its kind in this country,) by sending us \$2. Their subscriptions can begin at any time.

☞ Specimen copies, both of the "*Rural New Yorker*" and "*Maryland Farmer*," sent free on application.

☞ Back numbers of the "*Farmer*" can only be supplied from April of 1867.

☞ The "*Southern Cultivator*," the leading agricultural monthly South, price \$2 per annum, and the "*Maryland Farmer*," price \$1.50, furnished both at \$3 per annum.

☞ Correspondents should always give their Postoffice, County and State at the top of their letters, and write their names *eligibly*.

## STATE FAIRS FOR 1867.

The following State Fairs will be held at the place and time designated:

OHIO .....	Dayton .....	October 15th to 18th.
NEW YORK .....	Buffalo .....	
WISCONSIN .....	Madison .....	Sept. 23d to 27th.
PENNSYLVANIA .....	Norristown .....	September.
NEW ENGLAND FAIR .....	Providence .....	Early in September.
MICHIGAN .....	Detroit .....	Sept. 10th to 13th.
IOWA .....	Lyons .....	Oct. 1st to 4th.
MINNESOTA .....	Rochester .....	Oct. 1st to 4th.
CALIFORNIA .....		Sept. 9th to 14th.
KENTUCKY TOBACCO FAIR,	at Louisville,	June 12th and 13th.

MARYLAND—expected to be held near Baltimore, in the last week of October.

**Season for Reapers and Mowers.**—The season now rapidly approaching when those who need harvesters will be looking around to make a selection, we call attention to the following Machines advertised in this number of the Farmer:

*Buckeye Mower and Reaper*—E. Whitman & Sons, agents, Baltimore.

*Woods' Self Raking Reaper and Mower*—Norris & Pusey, agents, Baltimore.

*Cut Gear World's Reaper and Mower*—John M. Griffith & Co., agents, Baltimore.

*Kirby's Self Raking Reaping and Mowing Machines*—Banks, Slingluff & Co., agents, Baltimore.

*New York Self-Rake Reaper & Mower—and Monitor Mower, and Monitor Reaper and Mower*—Sinclair & Co., agents, Baltimore.

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND AGRICULTURE.

We reproduce below the Speech recently delivered by Maj. GIDDINGS, of Anne Arundel County, before the State Convention now assembled at Annapolis. He suggests the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the propriety of establishing a bureau of Labor and Agriculture, under the auspices of the State, and supported from funds provided by the State. The object he has in view is to stimulate foreign emigration by organized efficient action, aided by such assistance, in the way of free passage to our shores, or otherwise, as may best subserve this useful purpose. The project is a good one, and if it could be successfully carried out, the expense to the State would be trifling as compared with the advantages she would derive from the influx of white laborers. It is, nevertheless, a matter so difficult to turn the current of immigration into new and unaccustomed channels that we fear much disappointment must ensue before any positive amount of good can be accomplished, and, in the meantime, the Commissioner and his agents would be subject to much obloquy from those impatient spirits who would expect immediate results from the organization of such a Bureau. We perfectly agree with Mr. Giddings that we must look to foreign countries for the laboring hands we require, and not to the Northern States, and we think therefore that in this respect his suggestions are happy and well timed. Whether, however, it is the province of the Convention to take cognisance of this subject is another matter. If it lies within its powers—and on this point we do not venture to express an opinion—it is certain that a degree of stability would be given to the proposed Bureau which it would not otherwise have. Ordinarily it is much better to leave matters of this kind to private effort, but we admit that the times are exceptional, that organized effort of some sort is absolutely necessary, and that a system of emigration framed by and conducted under official auspices might be promotive of incalculable good. In this event, liberal appropriations would be required and a generous confidence should be reposed in the Commissioner or Commissioners appointed to undertake a service which must be arduous at the best, and may not bear all the fruits that are anticipated from it. There is no question at all, however, in our minds that if any thing of the kind is undertaken the field of operations should be Europe. Agencies should be established there in the rural districts, and at the seaports, and such means should be adopted as would enable intending emigrants to understand the resources of Maryland, to appreciate the healthiness of its climate, and to know what they are to do, and where they are to go, when they get here. The whole subject

is one of great interest and we are glad that Mr. Giddings has broached it.

## Remarks of Major Giddings.

*Mr. President:*—Will the Convention allow me to say a few words in reference to this order? I should hesitate to trespass now upon its time, but if the subject is to be acted upon at all, it should, in common with others, be taken up at the beginning of the session; and a very few minutes will suffice for the expression of my views.

Some gentlemen may regard the order as containing and proposing matter not proper to be embraced in the provisions of the State Constitution. I present it with some diffidence, and chiefly to obtain an expression of opinion upon that point, and if this body should think it worthy of serious consideration, then I hope that the Committee it asks for will be appointed now, in order that the result of its labors may be prepared for our final action as soon as possible.

There is, as is well known, a national bureau or Department of Agriculture, but its services or favors are necessarily divided among so many States, as to be of no great advantage to any. To a certain extent, this new State Department might be made to co-operate with that. But the benefits to be derived from that branch of its operations would be among the least which, I think, it would confer upon our people.

Older governments than ours—I will not say better—have found it wise and necessary to organize departments of labor for the mutual benefit of the employers and the employed, and for the augmentation of their national wealth. I don't know whether anything of the kind has ever been constitutionally established in any of the States of this Union; but it has seemed to me, from the brief reflection I have given the matter, that such a branch of the government is now much required for the development of the former slave States, and for their early restoration to prosperity. And no one of them is in a better condition to successfully initiate it than Maryland. The great agricultural interest of those States is now languishing, not from the want of high prices, but for the want of labor. It is difficult to tell what would have been the condition of our farmers if they had been compelled to submit to low prices, in addition to the many trials they have encountered since the war. Thanks to a kind Providence, we of Maryland have not suffered the horrors of famine as have our unfortunate Southern brethren, but as far as my observation extends the area of land under cultivation has become annually less since the act of emancipation.

The great, the paramount want of our State to-day is labor; labor in its many fertile and deserted fields. The makers of the present Constitution, at one fell blow, and contrary to the will of a majority of our people, deprived us of thousands of happy and contented laborers. It was a measure which—as was remarked by the late and much lamented statesman, Judge Chambers, in his protest against the adoption of the 24th article of the Bill of Rights—"inflicted serious injury and suffering on many of them, and was iniquitous and unjust in the extreme to the master."

It was a paralyzing blow to inflict so suddenly upon the industry of a State; such as madmen only in their demoniac phrenzy would strike. It left many of our people penniless, and thousands with scarcely the means to support their families and pay the taxes on their lands. For the last two or three years our farmers have struggled with all the difficulties and embarrassments consequent upon so violent a revolution, and so discouraging is the prospect before them at present, that there are but few, in my section, at least, who do not wish to sell or rent their estates.

Some have been anxiously expecting that influx of population from other States, promised us by the President of the last Convention in his farewell address to that body, and which was to take the place of the labor they had destroyed. But they will wait and watch for it in vain. The North and West have abundant and profitable employment for all their labor and their capital. There is scarcely a State in this Union which has yet seen more than the beginning of the development of its resources.

I repeat that we want in Maryland at present, more than all things, labor—abundant and reliable white labor. And we should not wait for it to come to us, but we should seek for it in the populous portions of the world. Individual effort can accomplish but little in this matter. Nor will it be the business of a day to restore to Maryland her lost labor. It may require years of patient and systematic toil to rebuild what was so easily and rashly destroyed.

Our farmers do not expect compensation for their slaves; and their representatives in this body will, I believe, be found willing to extend and guarantee to their former servants, all the rights necessarily incident to their present condition.—But it appears only just and reasonable, as the last Convention deprived them of their labor, that the new Constitution should contain some provision to aid them in recovering



what is so much needed for their individual prosperity and the general welfare.

Can we not then organize a department of the government whose chief business it shall be to so speedily increase the labor of the State, as to make our lands in the future, more valuable than our land and slaves combined, have been in the past? That is the question to which my resolution invokes the consideration of this Convention. We shall have to rebuild, stone by stone, and arch by arch, the fallen temple of our industry. It is a great work and cannot be begun too soon; once commenced, it should be pressed steadily to completion, and not left to suffer as great undertakings often do from legislative neglect, or the want of private enterprise.

The productive labor of a State is the main pillar of its greatness. Let us lay the foundation for it, and let it be of such materials that neither time nor future revolutions shall again so utterly prostrate it.

The last Legislature did recognize this great want of the State by the appointment of an "Immigrant Agent," and the appropriation of a small sum for the prosecution of his task; but, with the highest respect for the ability of that gentleman (and I know no one better qualified for the office,) I fear that the field of his operations, will not yield us a very bountiful harvest, and for the reason that there is no superabundance of labor in the States north of us. It is only to such a bureau as that to which my order looks, supported by the resources of the State and extending its influence among the dense populations of Europe, that we can rely with any confidence for an early and sufficient supply of labor to take the place of that scattered by the breath of the last Convention, and which subsequent events have so rapidly demoralized.

In view of the present condition of the country and the great political agitation threatened in the near future—no reflecting mind can expect the productive interests of the Southern States to progress and prosper as they have done in the calm and happy past. It is our duty, however, not only to rehabilitate our people in all their power, rights and liberties, but to aid as much as possible the advancement of their material interests. Possessing, as Maryland does, almost every natural advantage, but one thing is now essential to her highest exaltation. Cannot something be done toward obtaining it, by diverting a portion at least of the stream of emigration from its present channel?

It seems to me there is some danger that the great agricultural and tax-bearing interest of the State, must sink under the weight of supporting your other Departments of the government, unless something is done to revive and re-establish it in this crisis. Much of our land is constantly depreciating in value, and, in fact, except in a few counties and favored localities, there seems to be no demand for it whatever. Is there no remedy for this great malady? If this important matter is left simply for legislative treatment, the next or some future General Assembly may deprive us of the aid of our one "Immigrant Agent."

I confess that I have not had time to give this subject the reflection it deserves, or to consult with many persons about it; but in my humble judgment, if the convention will appoint this committee, it may be able with the advice of such intelligent citizens as may favor it with their counsel, to prepare such a draft of the duties of this new department as may be worthy of your consideration and acceptable to our constituents.

I will only state now in brief and general terms the principal objects for which I think, such a branch of the government should be organized, premising only the well known facts, that agricultural labor is so abundant in many parts of Europe as scarcely to be able to earn a scanty subsistence—that this surplus population is always anxious to reach our shores as soon as it can obtain the means to defray the cost of its passage—that much of it is a very desirable population on account of its industry and frugality, its intelligence and early qualification for citizenship—that this tide of foreign emigration, like the floods of the Nile, never fails to enrich the country it overflows; it has, in fact, made all our young States of the northwest, wealthy and powerful—that this intelligent and industrious white labor, is all that Maryland now wants to enable her to regain her former prosperity and influence in the great family of States—that no private company, no agricultural society can bring it to our borders in sufficient amount to be of much utility, and that therefore, it is one of the highest duties of the State to open freely every channel for its ingress, and, if need be for a season, bear a portion at least, of the cost of its transportation hither.

If we could create a Commissioner to direct this business with a few intelligent foreign agents at well selected points abroad, to spread among the laboring classes of Europe correct information as to the advantages of a settlement in our State, and especially if those agents were furnished through the home department with contracts from our farmers for labor at fixed and fair prices, or with contracts to lease or rent lands, so that the emigrants would be guaranteed certain employment and homes upon their arrival, I think

that many would be induced to come without any charge either to individual employers or to the State. It was but a few days ago that I was shown a letter from an intelligent Scotch gentleman asking for information as to the best sections of our country for wool-growing, and desiring to enlist some American land-holder as a partner in the business. Now by means of such a State bureau as the one proposed, operating through its authorized agents in Edinburgh or Glasgow, he and hundreds of others might not only obtain promptly all such information there, but also, have the choice of many desirable contracts that would be freely offered by our land-owners. This is but one of the very many instances daily occurring.

The enterprise of the sagacious President and Directory of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, in establishing regular and frequent steam communication with Europe, offers every facility for this emigration; and doubtless the most satisfactory arrangements might be made between that Company and our State Commissioner of Labor, to transport to Baltimore such emigrants as our agents might induce to come, either on the faith of special contracts or for general settlement among us. I do not suppose that any expense which might attend this branch of its operations, would have to be borne by the State very long, for after a few emigrant families were once comfortably settled in each of our counties, numbers of their friends and relatives would soon voluntarily follow them.

I am not unmindful of the fact that very many have heretofore been disposed rather to repel than to encourage European immigration. But whatever may have been thought or said of it in the past, I conceive there can be no question as to its policy now. We must seek and invite it, or the recuperation of the State will be comparatively slow. Besides, when the people of the South are about to be met at the polls by their former slaves, should we hesitate to confer the most liberal privileges and clothe with political rights intelligent and industrious men of our own color, who come to aid in building up the prosperity of the State? The time has now come when the Southern States should make it their chief business to increase and multiply their white population. Almost everything else necessary to the greatness of the State will attend closely upon that. The negro labor, never adequate either in quantity or quality, for the development of our resources, is now utterly insufficient and unreliable. Much of what remains of it is being pampered by the General Government, and massed into a political organization, full of danger to the country. Is it not, then, the part of wisdom for our land-owners to make themselves, as soon as possible, independent of this rapidly degenerating class of laborers by the introduction of better races? Political considerations, as well as private interests, demand this policy. If Maryland appropriated annually, for say ten years, the largest sum which the most liberal gentlemen on this floor might name for the accomplishment of this object, I believe it would ere then be abundantly repaid to her in the increased wealth and power of the State. I may add that this seems to be an auspicious time for the State to act in this matter, as an unusual discontent is said to pervade the working classes of Europe, and large numbers are now preparing to seek a more congenial country.

Again, it is not to be expected that the Freedman's Bureau will be a permanent institution. There are few things permanent in our age and country; and in politics we observe many sudden and strange mutations. The time may soon come when the white people of the North will decline to feed and pet in idleness the wards of the nation. Many of the colored population of this State may again be thrown for support upon the people among whom they have been reared, and whom the future will prove to have been their best friends and protectors. In that event it might become the duty of this Department to assume their guardianship and care for their rights and interests.

In addition to these duties, why might not the functions of the Commissioners of the Land Office, and perhaps of some other State officers, be embraced in this department?

But I have said more perhaps than was necessary in explanation of the resolution, which I hope will receive the favorable consideration of this body. I do think that it is now the duty of the State to aid in reviving that great interest which has suffered from emancipation more than all others in the Commonwealth; and I think we should endeavor to begin the work in the Constitution itself.

Before I sit down, I beg to say a word to our friends from the Western counties; and I am pleased to find that section of the State represented here by gentlemen of such high character and marked ability. I know that they have not suffered from this want of labor as we have, nor have their fertile and beautiful lands depreciated in value, as have ours. But I know, too, that there is in that section a vast amount of now unproductive mountain land, which, with abundant labor, might be made as profitable as their rich-

est vallies. As this Convention is not a Farmer's Club, assembled for consultation on purely bucolical subjects, I may not presume to occupy its time in showing how that result might be obtained.

I would also say to the large and very distinguished delegation from Baltimore city—sitting before me—that not only the Agricultural interest but the trade of our great commercial city, would be benefited by the successful operation of this project. As a citizen of Maryland, I am proud of Baltimore, and shall cheerfully support any measure designed for its welfare. It is the great and noble heart of the State, and throbs promptly responsive to every appeal of charity and patriotism. But if the body of the Commonwealth is allowed to languish, the heart itself may soon cease to beat.

In asking this Convention to adopt some plan for improving the condition of the agricultural interest, I am only asking it to foster every branch of industry, for it is the foundation of them all.

#### A Graphic Description of Farmers Who Do Not Take an Agricultural Paper.

The *Prairie Farmer* publishes a letter in relation to the farming capacities of Jasper county, Iowa, in which the writer states that "a portion of this is cultivated by live farmers, who uniformly realize from thirty-five to forty bushels of wheat per acre; seventy-five to one hundred bushels of corn per acre; ninety to one hundred of oats; and all other farm products in proportion.

It is true, there is a class of farmers here, (the number of whom, I am happy to say, is every year becoming less,) who do not realize such crops as I have mentioned; but they are not live farmers; they are only "stay" farmers; for they stay just as they were ten or fifteen years ago; having only moved a little backward, if at all. They are not reading, thinking, acting, energetic men; agricultural papers are not found in their houses; seldom a newspaper of any kind. Few or no trees are seen growing around their dwellings, or bordering their fields. The idea that the application of thought and intelligence to the business of the farm, is even more necessary to insure success, than the mere expenditure of physical strength, has never got into their heads. Now I call these farmers dead, in contradistinction to live farmers; because, in fact, they are dead to all progress and improvement. They stand in the way of every elevating influence. Educational and moral no less than agricultural interests, suffer by their touch, and dwindle in their presence."

ORNAMENT FOR THE PARLOR.—An exchange says: suspend an acorn by a cotton thread so as to nearly touch the water in a glass vessel, a hyacinth glass is perhaps the best, set upon the window or mantel, and let it remain for eight weeks, more or less, without being touched except to supply the evaporation of the water, and the acorn will burst, and as it throws a shoot down into the water, a sprout or stem will shoot upward, throwing out beautiful leaves, thus giving you an oak tree in full life and health within your parlor.

#### Wheat Growing in Louisiana.

Contrary to the generally received opinion at the North, it would appear from a report by Judge Robinson on the resources of Louisiana, that the climate and location of that State are highly favorable to the growing of wheat, as the following abstract will show:

"Wheat with us should be planted in September, October or November. It is a beautiful season for preparing the ground. It then may be reaped in the last half of April and May, a time usually selected for making brick, on account of its fair weather. The daily quotations show that Southern flour, raised in Missouri, Tennessee and Virginia, brings from three to five dollars more per barrel than best New York Genesee flour. Louisiana and Texas flour is far superior to the Tennessee, Virginia or Missouri, owing to the superior dryness, and the fact that it contains more gluten, and does not ferment so easily. Southern flour makes better dough and macaroni than Northern or Western flour; it is better adapted for transportation over the sea, and keeps better in the tropics. It is, therefore, the flour that is sought after for Brazil, Central America, Mexico, and the West India markets, which are at our doors.

A barrel of strictly Southern flour will make twenty pounds more bread than Illinois flour, because, being so much drier, it takes up more water in making up. In addition to this vast superiority of our grain, we have other advantages over the Western States in grain growing. Our climate advances the crop so rapidly that we can cut our wheat six weeks before a scythe is put into the fields of Illinois; and being so near the gulf, we avoid the delays in the shipping and the long transportation, the cost of which consumes nearly one-half of the product of the West. These advantages, the superior quality of the flour, the earlier harvest, and the cheap and easy shipment, enable us absolutely to forestall the West in the foreign demand, which is now about 40,000,000 of bushels annually, and is rapidly increasing, and also in the Atlantic seaboard trade.

Massachusetts, it is calculated, raises not more than one month's supply of flour for her vast population. New York not six months' supply for her population, and the other Atlantic States in like proportion. This vast deficit is now supplied by the Western States, and the trade has enriched the West, and has built railroads in every direction to carry toward the East the gold producing grain.—We can, if, we choose, have a monopoly of this immense trade, and the time may not be far distant, when, in the dispensation of providence, the West, which contributed so largely to the uprooting of our servile system and the destruction of our property, will find that she has forced us into a rivalry against which she cannot compete, and that she will have to draw not only for supplies of cotton, sugar and rice, but even for breadstuffs from the South."

"Ah," said Seraphina, speaking on some subject on which her feelings were enlisted, "how gladly I would embrace an opportunity!"—"Would I were an opportunity!" interrupted her bashful lover. So they embraced, and mingled their tears together. Oh!



## COMMUNICATED.

FOR THE MARYLAND FARMER.

## PROPAGATION AND PRESERVATION OF BIRDS.

There are few subjects of greater importance to the producer, whether of fruits or cereals, than that of producing and preserving insectivorous birds, and perhaps none which is receiving less attention.

Among the most valuable to the farmer, is the Crow, and yet they are destroyed or killed in great numbers annually, and by those who are benefited by them infinitely more than they are injured.

This would certainly not be the case, if their destroyers would carefully investigate the habits of the bird, and learn on what he subsists. The crow prefers insects for food, to any of the cereals, and of the latter he fancies Indian corn. Place a crow in confinement, give him as food grain, insects and worms, and he will eat very little grain so long as he can get worms, and prefers putrid flesh to either. Hence they are invaluable both as scavengers and insect destroyers.

I am aware that many will claim that they destroy annually a large amount of corn, and that the crop, in many districts, is curtailed to a great extent, by the young corn being pulled by the crow. This I admit, but it is not the fault of the crow but of the farmer, for not guarding the young crop, until it is out of the power of the crow to destroy it, which only requires protection for 10 or 15 days at the most, after which the crow will be of great service to the crop up to the time the grain is nearly matured, by the destruction of grubs and caterpillars, which would be much more destructive to the crop than the crow would be. It is not common that the crow destroys much corn in autumn, unless it is left in the field later than it should be for the economical preservation of the crop.

I claim that the farmer can well afford to guard the crop from destruction by the crow, in all its stages, and that without killing him, on account of the great advantage derived from it during the entire year.

Where crows are not frightened from the corn field, after the plants have reached a size that he cannot pull them, little of it will be destroyed by grubs or caterpillars, and they will even destroy many of the wire worms, by piercing their beaks into the hill among the roots of the plants. The black bird is equally fond of the insects which are most destructive to corn. I remember well to have observed that a portion of a field near a swamp in which black birds harbored in great numbers was very slightly destroyed by grubs, while remote portions of the field was much injured. But there is a great variety of small birds, whose particular field of usefulness is in the orchard and fruit yard, which are wantonly destroyed, and which if preserved and protected, would be of incalculable value to all classes, the consumer as well as the producer. Among these, there was, in my boyhood, in the rural district in which I lived, a great number and variety of woodpeckers. They are nearly all destroyed, and in their stead we have myriads of insects and borers, which are so destructive to fruit production, that very many who have every other facility and encouragement to grow fruit, and could make it very profitable, have abandoned it on account of ravages of the various insects. Pioneer settlers everywhere attest that while the country is new and

sparsely inhabited, and birds are abundant, they suffer no loss from the ravages of insects, and that they can well afford to divide with such birds as are fond of ripe fruit.

I have even seen the proprietor of a farm in New York shooting woodpeckers in his orchard because, as he said; "they were piercing the bark of the trunks to their injury." I plead successfully for the life of this friend of the fruit grower, by informing him that they did not injure the tree, and that a single bird undisturbed, would no doubt destroy eggs and larva of thousands of injurious insects in a single day. This farmer is now an ardent friend of birds, and for years has not allowed one of any variety to be destroyed or frightened from his premises; on the contrary, he says, "a farmer can much better afford to spend time and money in supplying cages and protection for birds of every description than for means for their destruction."

The old hollow trees of the apple orchards are generally removed. These were the favorite places for building the nests of numerous varieties of birds, which will not build any where else than in hollow trees, hence they seek a new home more favorable to their habits.

Now, I contend that although an old hollow tree may produce no fruit, (and if it does not, its exhaustion of the soil and shade will do little injury,) we can well afford it space for the production of birds. We can well afford to do more. That is, to suspend in orchards either cages by the dozen or hundred, and when a farmer finds among his firewood, a tree that is hollow, or decayed so that the woodpecker and other birds who bore to make their nests, he should saw such trunks in short sections, nail a board over one end to keep out the rain, and set them in the forks of his fruit trees, or suspend them by wire from nails driven into the limbs. The nails will certainly do no harm, and they may be useful in more ways than one. Durable earthen ware bird cages can be obtained at our potteries, at about \$2 per dozen.

J. WILKINSON, Landscape Gardener.

## Remedy for the Striped Bug.

To Editors Maryland Farmer:

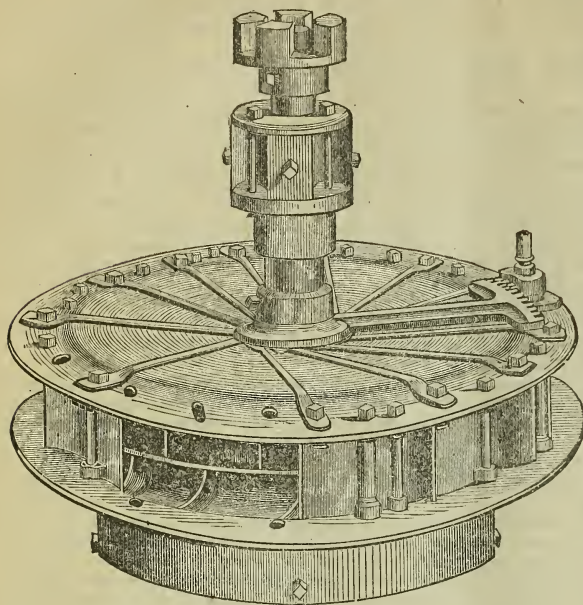
I have had the pleasure of reading your valuable journal for about one year, and have noticed frequent "Preventives for the Striped Bug." Last season I accidentally discovered a simple and effectual remedy for that pest. I was passing our watermelon patch with a pail of white-wash in one hand and a broom in the other, when noticing that whole hills had disappeared, and myriads of the Bug were vigorously at work destroying the rest, I dipped the broom into the liquid and dashed a good sprinkling of it on the vines of fifty hills or so, and watched the result. Every bug took speedy flight—I continued the sprinkling of the remaining hills with like result. The same effect was produced on about two acres of canteloupes—one dose proved sufficient. Being about to leave this section of the country I desire to make this public, with the hope that every one troubled will try the remedy, and meet with equal success. Simply lime and water dashed on with an old broom.

"YANKEE."

Hooversville, Md., April 29, 1837.

ICE HOUSE.—A Virginia correspondent seeks information:—"I wish to enquire through the 'Farmer' the best model for an Ice House, with a drip for milk and butter."

## Leffel's Double Turbine Water Wheel.



Under the general name of *Turbines*, are included water wheels formed on very different principles, having nothing in common but the property of all turning on vertical shafts. So that these wheels are now very commonly designated by the generic term *Turbines*, or in German *Kreislaeder*.

The editors of the *Turf, Field and Farm*, speak as follows of the Turbine Wheel:

"No doubt many of our readers, educated in the belief that the "overshot" water wheel is the *ne plus ultra* in the application of water power, have either never heard of the turbine, or have passed it by without inquiry, as a new fangled invention unworthy their attention. In this progressive age, what is novel to-day may be obsolete a few years hence. Such would be the fate of the overshot and breast wheel, were the merits of the turbine generally known. Wherever the armies, Federal and Confederate, swept through the land, leaving desolation and ruin in their track, the mills were in a great measure destroyed—these mills, as the country gradually recovers, will be rebuilt, hence it is we call attention to the turbine wheel as being vastly superior as regards cheapness, durability and power to any other in existence."

Those used in Maryland have given complete satisfaction, surpassing in regularity and rapidity of motion anything in the character of a water wheel which has ever been introduced. It is under as much control and as easily stopped and started as any wheel propelled by steam could be.

For particulars, parties interested can address Poole & Hunt, Baltimore, Md.

## THE LUPINE.

From a "Report of an Agricultural Tour in Europe," by John H. Klippart, Esq., presented to the Ohio State Agricultural Society, and which was published in their report for 1865, we extract the following interesting account of the Lupine:

The Lupine is a plant belonging to the family of *Leguminosæ*, in botany, or the "pea" or "pod bearing" family of plants, and is a native of the shores of the Mediterranean. Although the plant was known to the Greeks under the name of *Thermos*, and used by them not only as an article of food, but also medicinally, esteeming them vermifugal and emmenagogue, &c., (*Dioscor.* lib. 1, c. 132,) and by the ancient Romans were grown on the poor, dry plains, and in the time of Pliny were ploughed under as an ameliorating crop for the improvement of the land, yet were not introduced into Germany until the commencement of the present century. In 1810 Baron Charles von Wolffen made an agricultural tour into the south of France, saw them cultivated there, and on his return introduced them on his estate at Pietzpuhl, near Magdeburg, in the province of Saxony. It is ploughed in when in bloom, when it is intended to be used as an ameliorator. It is said to derive its name from *lupus*, a wolf, because it devours the substance of the land on which it is grown, that is to say, it exhausts the land very rapidly of its alkalies. But this very fact renders it particularly useful for the agricultural

purpose to which it is applied. The long tap roots strike deep into the ground and take up whatever they find there, and thus the alkaline substances are brought up, and when the plant is plowed in these substances are within the reach of more shallow rooting crops. The great advantage which it possesses over the clover tribe is, that it flourishes and produces good crops on poor, sandy and other thin lands. It can withstand drought, but not the cold—it is readily nipped by spring frosts. There are three varieties, and each of these have sub-varieties, the chief varieties are white, yellow and blue. The white does not mature in Germany, and is used entirely as a green-soiling food. In Naples it is used for food for horses, and in Sicily and Tuscany the fruit is used on the table. It requires a better soil than any of the others; it succeeds best on a sandy loam. The blue lupine succeeds best in a loam, has a straight stem and very seldom branches; the yellow lupine flourishes on sandy, gravelly soils, the stalk is much branched, yield well, but must be harvested whilst the pod is yet green, when dry the pod bursts with the slightest pressure, and great loss ensues if harvested when ripe. Cattle and sheep are very fond of the herbage, and even dry stalks, whilst the fruit itself is excellent food for sheep—lambs a few days old eat them voraciously. Clover and other cultivated forage plants can be grown among the lupines without any detriment to the latter.



## TALK AMONG FARMERS.

The following we glean from the Discussions of the *Little Falls Farmers' Club*, reported by X. A. Willard, Esq. Some of the points brought out may be of interest, as they are the result of experience, and from sound, practical, and successful farmers.

*Feeding Milch Cows Green Corn Fodder.*—With regard to feeding milch cows green corn fodder or grass, for soiling purposes, it was better to have it wilted before feeding. It should be cut in the morning, and lay in the sun till afternoon, and then fed. In this way some of the external moisture will be got rid of, and the food will be preferred by animals and produce better results. The food is very succulent and juicy, and does not need to be still further diluted by feeding when dew or water is adhering to it. Better reduce the watery portions by wilting and partially drying. Drilling in the seed for corn fodder was preferable to broadcast sowing; it yielded more, and was easier cut. The drills should be about three feet apart.

*Plaster.*—Mr. Lewis, thought it a good time to sow plaster immediately after haying, there was more leisure then, and it gave a good coat of grass in the fall. He wanted his milch cows in high condition to commence the winter. When plaster is to be sowed in spring, would prefer to have it on the late snows; but plaster could be sown at any time during the growing season with good effect. As to the quantity of plaster per acre, more depended upon even distribution than large quantities unevenly put on. About 100 pounds to the acre, if properly applied annually, would be about right. Plaster used to be sold by measure, 29 bushels being considered a ton.

*Grass Seed.*—Many people, it was believed, make a mistake in sowing too small a quantity of grass seed in seeding meadows. A half bushel per acre is little enough. When only a peck per acre is used, there are vacant spaces and it takes long to get a good sod. It is bad economy to waste the use of land in this way. Better pay a little more for seed in the first instance, and be prepared to get full crops, right along.

*Manuring Corn in the Hill.*—Mr. Whitman was preparing his ground for corn by manuring in the hill. The manure was too compact, and when thrown in the hill, was in lumps, which had to be broken down with the hoe. He set his men to turning the manure in the pile, and afterwards found it was easy to be distributed.

Mr. Brown uses a good large shovelful of manure for three hills, and at this rate it takes nine heavy loads per acre.

*Planting Corn.*—In planting corn, Mr. Lewis thought it important that the seed be together. He

wanted all the kernels within two inches square; can get nearer with the cultivator, and obtain a larger yield. Has raised ninety bushels per acre on the Mohawk flats; would put as many kernels in the hill as wanted to grow, and no more. When more seed was planted than needed, it was apt to be left, and not pulled out. Others preferred planting a surplus of seed. Worms sometimes work among the corn, and plants are destroyed from various causes. It was better to pull out what was not wanted, than to plant over, or lose the ground for the missing hill.

To the question of how long seed corn can be kept and prove good, one member said he had found it reliable, when two years old, and an instance was given where it had been kept five years, and then planted, and came up. Seed corn should be selected from that which ripens first, by going through the field and selecting the early ears. In this way, you get an earlier corn. It would be better to obtain seed from a locality further north, or colder than the place where it is to be planted.

*Broom Corn.*—Broom corn is put in along the Mohawk flats from the 1st to the 10th of June. The seed is drilled in rows from two feet eight inches to two feet apart. Some prefer the latter distance, it is said, because a finer brush can be procured.—Good mature seed, if properly dried, was as valuable for feeding as oats. It made good chicken feed. Broom corn is extensively raised all along the Mohawk valley, as far east as Schenectady. In many places no attempt is made to save the bulk of seed. It is left in heaps to rot, and is converted into manure.

## To Protect Corn from the Cut Worm.

There seem to be different opinions about the advantages of soaking corn in gas tar, previous to planting. Our own experience is, that unless the season is very wet, the gas tar acts on a grain of corn as it does when applied to roofs and fences to preserve them, by preventing the access of moisture. The coating of tar interferes with the absorption by the corn of the necessary moisture for germination. Ours has laid in the ground for weeks in the same condition as when planted, the tar first, and then the plaster it was rolled on, covering it completely, and apparently preventing its sprouting. A far better plan to keep off the cut worm is to drop a tablespoonful of coarse salt on the top of each hill, soon after planting. This is carried down by the rains, and acts as a fertilizer, besides destroying the cut worm. Salt is peculiarly obnoxious to this class of insects, and perhaps all classes.

Some of our friends, instead of putting the salt in the hill, spread about eight bushels to the acre broadcast upon their corn fields after ploughing, and before harrowing. This is also a very profitable application.—*The Practical Farmer*.

## Horticultural.

### How to Obtain Fruit for New Places.

From the *American Fruit Culturist*, by J. J. Thomas, (new edition,) we make the following extracts. This book should be in the library of every fruit culturist—published by Wm. Wood & Co., New York :

This is an inquiry that often occurs in the minds of many owners of new places, or who have built new houses on unimproved spots. We can inform such residents that much may be done towards an immediate supply with proper selection and management, and that the assertion which they often hear, that "it will take a lifetime to get fruit" from a new plantation, is an absurd error.

The quickest return is from planting Strawberries. If set out early in spring, they will bear a moderate crop the same season. We have repeatedly obtained fine ripe berries seven weeks from the day they were set out. The second year, if the bed is kept clean, the product will be abundant. Wilson's Albany will safely yield any year a bushel from a square rod, or about two quarts a day for half a month.

Muskmelons and Watermelons will yield their delicious products four months after planting.

Gooseberries, Currants, Raspberries, and Blackberries, all bear at about the same period from the time of setting out. Good-sized gooseberry plants, say a foot and a half high, will give a good crop of bushes, of their size, the second year. We have had a bushel of Cherry currants the third summer after setting out quite small plants, from a row thirty feet long. A bush of Brinckle's Orange raspberry has been known repeatedly to bear about a hundred berries the same year that it was transplanted—the fruit, however, was not full size.

Dwarf Pears of the right sorts, and under right management, come quickly into bearing. The most prolific sorts give some returns the second year, and more afterwards. Among the dwarf pears which bear soon, are Louise Bonne of Jersey, Doyenne d'Ete, White Doyenne, Giffard, Fontenay, Jalousie, Josephine de Malines, etc. The following sorts bear nearly as early on pear stock, viz : Bartlett, Seckel, Winter Nelis, Washington, Onondaga, Howell, Passe Colmar, Julienne.

Grapes afford fruit soon—usually beginning to bear the second and third year. The Isabella, York Madeira, Diana and Delaware, are particularly recommended for this purpose at the north, and the Catawba may be added for the Middle States, wherever it does not rot.

Dwarf Apples should not be entirely overlooked

in the list of early bearers. Half a peck per tree is often obtained the third year from the most productive sorts.

A good supply of all the preceding will be sufficient to furnish a family with these wholesome luxuries from within a year or two of occupying entirely new premises; and will not only add greatly to the comforts and attractions of home, but contribute materially to the uniform health of the occupants.\*

\* **FRUIT vs. MALARIA.**—Residents in the Western States, and other regions where intermittents and similar diseases result from malaria, state that a regular supply of ripe, home-grown fruit, is almost a sure preventive. Eat the fruit only when fully ripe, and eat only moderate quantities at a time, and little need be feared. The residents of such regions should, therefore, not omit the earliest opportunity for a supply. Plant large quantities of strawberries for early summer—they will bear abundantly a year from the time they become established. Plant many currant bushes—for these are a most healthy and excellent fruit—very hardy—and, if in abundance, will last through all the hottest parts of the summer. The Doolittle and Orange raspberries are profuse bearers—the former very hardy, the latter generally so, but should be laid down and covered with an inch or two of earth for winter. The Rochelle blackberry, if pinched in when three or four feet high (about midsummer,) will bear abundantly and prove harder than if the canes run up without control. The Delaware, Clinton and Concord grapes, are early and hardy, and will bear in two or three years from transplanting. Dwarf apples, on the Paradise and Doucin stock, will flourish in any locality, and begin to bear profusely in three or four years, and on the Paradise stock often in two years.—Some varieties bear early on common stock; such, for example, as the Dyer, Lowell, Early Strawberry, Sops of Wine, Oldenburgh, Porter, Belmont, Jonathan, etc.; but these will, of course, bear much sooner as dwarfs. The Bartlett, Washington, Julienne, Flemish Beauty, Beurre d'Amalis, Onondaga, Howell and Seckel pears, produce early as standards, and the Louise Bonne of Jersey as a dwarf. Houghton's gooseberry grows with great vigor, is very hardy, and in two or three years affords almost solid masses of berries on the branches. Such fruits as the above should be planted out on every new place, as indispensable to health as well as to comfort and economy; and emigrants to new countries should take a supply with them, as the best medicine chest they can provide.

### Diseases of the Peach.

**THE YELLOWS.**—The disease termed the Yellows is truly formidable. It is peculiar to the peach and nectarine. It has destroyed whole orchards in portions of the country, and for a time induced the entire abandonment of the peach culture in certain localities.

The cause of this malady has not been satisfactorily ascertained. According to conjecture, it has arisen originally from exhaustion by deteriorated soil, overbearing, and neglected pruning and bad cultivation. But whatever may have been its origin, it appears at present to be chiefly communi-



cated from diseased trees. It is quickly induced by inserting the bud from an affected tree into a healthy stock. It spreads by contact with diseased roots; a knife used in pruning the tree will infuse the poison if used on another. It appears to be communicated without actual contact, the healthy branches nearest a diseased tree being usually first attacked. It is also probable that the stones from diseased trees cause its developments after a few years' growth.—Its highly contagious nature, when in its most virulent form, is indicated by the equal facility with which young and vigorous trees, and old and feeble, may be inoculated by contact.

Its infallible indications are, first, a premature ripening of the fruit, some weeks earlier than usual—accompanied with a rather insipid flavor, and with purple discolorations of the flesh. These usually occur the first season, and on a part of the tree which has been first inoculated with the poison. The following season, numerous small wiry shoots are frequently thrown up from the larger branches, the leaves become yellow, the whole tree assumes a sickly appearance, and eventually perishes. No instance is known where a decidedly developed case of this disease has ever been cured. When once attacked, to prevent a spread of the disease, the tree should be immediately removed and burned. No young trees should be planted on the same spot, as the diseased roots still remain. Stones for seedlings should be procured from districts of the country where it has not been introduced.

In some parts of the country, possessing a strong fertile soil, as, for instance, portions of Western New York, this disease has not spread extensively when introduced from abroad. It has generally destroyed a few trees near the affected ones, and has then disappeared.

**THE CURL OF THE LEAF**, in the peach, occurs during the early part of the season, and appears to be caused by a minute internal fungus in the pores of the leaf, developed by cold weather. The only known remedy is a thrifty growth, imparted by good cultivation and pruning back. When the disease is severe, it destroys most of the foliage, and injures and sometimes kills the tree.

**MILDEW OF THE PEACH**.—The growth of peach trees is often retarded by mildew. It seizes the tender points of the shoots and young leaves, and sometimes wholly stops their growth. It is confined to glandless, cut-leaved varieties only; such as the Early White Nutmeg, the Early Anne, and some of the earliest varieties of the Red Rareripec. Yellow-fleshed peaches rarely or never suffer from it. It is not often a formidable evil, although it seriously lessens the thrifty and handsome appearance of some varieties while growing in the nursery.

It is a minute fungus, and may be destroyed or

lessened without injury to the tree, by syringing with soap-suds on its first appearance. A mixture of lime water with the soap-suds is preferred by some cultivators, and a subsequent dusting with sulphur has been recommended. A thrifty growth and good pruning are, however, usually the best remedies.

### CATERPILLARS ON FRUIT TREES.

A correspondent at Blacksburg, Va., writes for a remedy for caterpillars on fruit trees. We extract the following from the *American Fruit Culturist*, by J. J. Thomas, and published by Wm. Wood & Co., New York, and would advise our friend, as he is a new beginner in horticulture, to procure a copy of the same, as he will find it a good investment:

"The best mode for their destruction is to cut off the small branches which hold the eggs during autumn or winter, and commit them to the fire. The most convenient implement is a long pole, armed with a pair of clipping shears, worked by a cord; or a sharp hooked knife, on the end of a pole, will answer nearly as well. The eggs are seen at a glance, after a little practice. If this work is done just at the moment the eggs are hatching, it will be equally efficacious, and the webs or downy covering of the young insects render them conspicuous. Every nest of eggs thus removed, which is done in a few seconds, totally prevents a nest of caterpillars in the spring, and is far more expeditious and effectual than the usual modes of brushing off the caterpillars with poles, brushes, or washing them with soap-suds, lye, or whitewash at a later period. \* \* \* The best remedy is, to be on the look-out for the nests of these caterpillars."

Dr. John A. Warder, in his new book—"American Pomology—Apples"—just published by Orange Judd & Co., New York, and which will prove a valuable acquisition to every farmer's library, says:

"In the early spring, we must watch for the little tents in the bifurcations of the limbs, and remove the nests with all the worms; this may be done when they are small, by using the thumb and finger: if larger, it is a disagreeable task, but no orchardist should hesitate when he recollects that six hundred leaves is a day's ration for one colony. They can easily be gathered in their web, thrown upon the ground, and crushed with the foot. Mr. Needham, of Massachusetts, has invented, what he calls, a caterpillar scourge; it is a little cone of wood, clothed with a piece of wool card. This is attached to a pole; when thrust into the web, the whole nest is gathered by the card teeth and brought down. An old dry mullein stalk has often been used for the same purpose, and some recommend burning the nest, or shooting it; but I have more faith in thumb and finger work, believing it to be more thorough."

The *Horticulturist*, of May, says:

"Caterpillars, canker worms, etc., require to be looked after this month. A sponge dipped in petroleum and applied to them will destroy them, or they may be syringed and destroyed with whale-oil soap-suds."

A correspondent in the *Country Gentleman*, says: "To keep caterpillars from ascending willow trees, put a grass sod in the fork of the tree, near the trunk. Should any have lodged in the branches, they will come down. This is a tested recipe."

## The Dairy.

### Milk Which Does Not Yield Butter, and the Means to Remedy It.

We refer our correspondent of Newtown, Md., who seeks information in our May No. as "how to treat cream that will not make butter," to the following which we extract from the *Veterinarian*.

M. Deneubourg addresses those who are chiefly interested in cases in which there is no disease of the mammary gland nor loss of milk, but a want of oleaginous matters in the fluid. In the causes of this deficiency of butter-making quality he concludes that there are two principal ones, viz: idiosyncrasy and alimentation; but there is another which cannot be so easily defined, and which occurs in animals that are well kept, and whose milk has been previously rich in butter. It is to these that the remedy is principally directed. The remedy consists in giving the animal two ounces of the sulphuret of antimony, with three ounces of coriander seeds, powdered and well mixed. This is to be given as a soft bolus, and followed by a draught composed of half a pint of vinegar, a pint of water, and a handfull of common salt, for three successive mornings, on an empty stomach.

The remedy, according to the author, rarely fails, and the milk produced some days after its exhibition is found to be richer in cream. The first churning yields a larger quantity of butter, but the second and third are still more satisfactory in their results.

A letter from a farmer states that he had fourteen cows in full milk, from which he obtained very little butter, and that of a bad quality. Guided by the statements of M. Deneubourg, which had appeared in *Annales Veterinaires*, he had separately tested the milk of his cows, and found that the bad quality of it was owing to one cow only, and that the milk of the others yielded good and abundant butter. It was, therefore, clearly established that the loss he had so long sustained, was to be attributed to this cow only. He at once administered the remedy recommended by Deneubourg, which effected a cure.

### Butter Making; The Old Trouble.

Several correspondents send us enquiries respecting the cause of their failure in making butter come. So much has been written in every agricultural paper about this difficulty, and the proper method of making butter, that to offer any remarks on this subject seems only a superfluous repetition of what every dairymaid has read or heard a hundred times before. We do not profess, then, to suggest anything new, nor do we know of any specific or infallible rule, that shall in every case secure a speedy conversion of

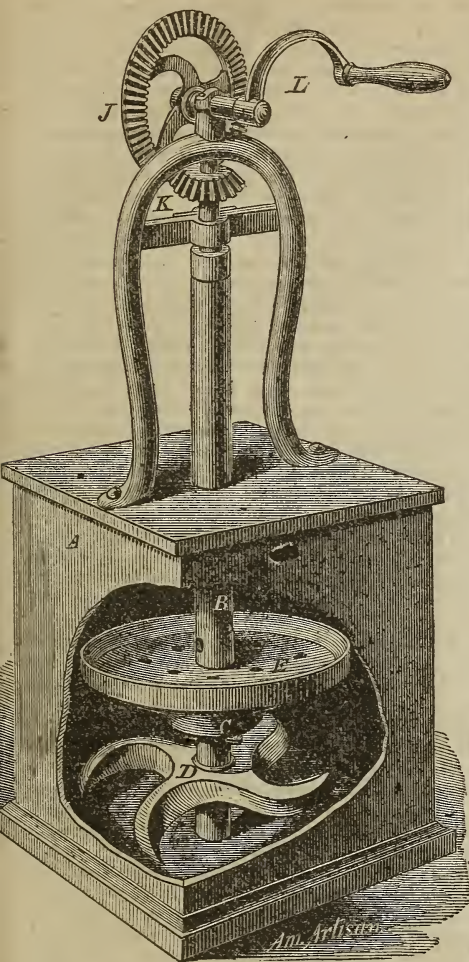
cream into butter. Some persons say they never fail; others, who follow the directions given by those same unfailing guides, have to confess to occasional miserable failures, and fruitless churnings extended indefinitely over weary hours. All we can do here is to remind our enquirers of several of the important points which it seems desirable to attend to.—The principal difficulty occurs during the winter season, which is now happily drawing towards its close; but as there is a month or more yet before grass will be growing in sufficient quantity to afford pasture for cattle, a few hints may not be entirely out of season. First, with regard to feeding the cows, we believe it is very important, as one means of preventing the difficulty under consideration, as well as to preserve the general health of the animals, that salt should be regularly supplied, or that the cows should have access to salt, to lick at their pleasure. A secondary advantage resulting from attention to this point is, that the cattle are thereby impelled to drink a larger quantity of water, which has a favourable influence on milk making. We think it desirable, moreover, to add, if only a small quantity, grain of some sort, in addition to the roots and hay which form the principal part of winter diet for our dairy stock. When feeding corn to cattle, we never experienced the difficulty in churning butter that seems, so frequent a concomitant of root feeding.

Then, as regards the proper treatment of the milk. A great many experienced dairy authorities recommend scalding the milk; and indeed regard this as the only sure mode of preventing the frequently recurring vexation of churning in vain. Let those who cannot succeed otherwise scald their milk; but we must say that we have not found even this plan infallible; and besides producing a quality of butter certainly not first class, it spoils the taste of the milk. We would recommend attention to the following particulars, and if, notwithstanding, the butter fails to come, then by all means scald the milk.

• Let everything about the dairy be *scrupulously clean*. Let the milk be kept in a moderately warm room; a temperature between 50° and 60° is the best; certainly it should never be allowed to freeze. Skim before the milk turns sour. Stir the cream well in the cream pot every time a fresh addition is made. Do not shut either milk or cream in any close place; fresh, sweet air is essential. The temperature of cream for churning should be about 60°. If it is much below or above this, or if the room in which the operation is performed is either very warm or cold, delay and disappointment may be the consequence. We believe that with strict and unvarying attention to these points, as well as to the proper feeding, salting and watering of the cattle, the instances of failure will be very few, if any. Some persons recommend giving the cows an occasional small dose of saltpetre. We have had no experience of the practice, but think there can be no harm in making the experiment.—*The Canada Farmer*.



## DAWSON'S PATENT CHURN.



The churn which we illustrate consists of a dasher placed upon a vertical shaft, in combination with a square box, in such a manner that an upward and inward motion is given to the cream, causing considerable agitation with comparatively little labor, and also of a dish or pan supported above the dasher in which the butter as it is formed is collected and separated from the buttermilk.

In the cut the churn is shown in perspective with one side of the cream receptacle broken away, so that the internal mechanism can be clearly shown. The vessel in which the cream is deposited is shown at A, and is conveniently made of a rectangular or square form, as in this form no ribs or vanes, are necessary to cause the deflection of the fluid towards the center of the vessel. \* \* In the center of this vessel is arranged a vertical shaft, B, fitted to revolve in a step in the corner of the vessel, A, and to the lower end of this shaft is fitted the dasher, D, which revolves with the shaft. \* \* Above the dasher is a pan or dish, E, supported on an adjustable collar, G, through which the shaft passes. \* \* A patent for this improvement has been allowed through the "American Artisan Patent Agency," for John T. Dawson, Frostburg, Md.—*American Artisan*, April 3.

**RANCID BUTTER.**—We long ago cut from an exchange the following recipe :

"To a pint of water add 30 drops (about half a teaspoonful) of liquor of chloride of lime. Wash in this two and a half pounds of rancid butter. When every particle of the butter has come in contact with the water, let it stand an hour or two, then wash the butter well again in pure water.—The butter is then left without any odor, and has the sweetness of fresh butter. These preparations of lime have nothing injurious in them."

We forthwith obtained from Mr. D. Nicholson, as a personal favor, some of the most rancid butter in his very extensive establishment, and it was bad enough for any stomach that had more sensibility than a wagon wheel. We doctored it as per recipe, and when placed on the table along with good butter, very able judges could not distinguish which was the new butter. Here is a fact worth a year's subscription to a paper.—*Colman's Rural World*.

**HOW TO KEEP HAMS THROUGH SUMMER.**—After your hams have taken salt hang them up and smoke them well, then take them down and dip them in boiling water for a few seconds, that will kill all the eggs of insects, if there should be any on them, then roll them in dry ashes while wet and hang them up again; smoke them more if you choose. I know this to be a good way to keep them, for I have tried it for two or three years; it is cheaper than canvassing, and a great deal better. This will do also for shoulders and sides. Those that do their bacon in this way, will never have any bugs or skippers on their meat.—*Cor. Colman's Rural World*.

**A PLEASANT SUMMER DRINK.**—To five gallons of cold water, add one quart of sound corn and two quarts of molasses. Put all into a keg. Shake well, and in two or three days it will be fit for use. Bung tight. It may be flavored with essence of spruce or lemon. The corn will last to make five or six brewings. If it becomes sour, add more molasses and water. It is a cheap and simple beer, and is called very good. A Yankee girl says this.

**A Kissing Song.**

The following suits us, and, may suit somebody else, so we give it. The last line is really a tinkling cymbal, if not more so.

*Air*—"Let me kiss him for his Mother."

Let me kiss her for her mother—  
The bewitching Polly Ann—  
Let me kiss her for her mother  
Or any other man.

Let me kiss her for somebody,  
Anybody in the world,  
With her hair so sweetly auburn,  
And so gloriously curled.

Let me kiss her for her "feller,"  
And I do not care a red,  
If he taps me on the smeller  
With his "billy made of lead."

Let me kiss her for her daddy—  
The pretty pouting elf—  
Or, if that don't suit the family,  
Let me kiss her for myself!

## Ladies Department.

### WILL HE BE HOME TO NIGHT?

A SONG OF THE "OLD LOVE AT HOME."

BY L. VIRGINIA FRENCH.

The light fades out from the purple hills,  
The woodlands are turning brown,  
On rock and river, and musical rills,  
The shadows are coming down.  
A faint blush lingers along the sky,  
And o'er the mountain's height—  
Oh! speed dark hours like swift birds by,  
For HE must be home to-night!

See! nestled soft in their snowy beds  
O'er which the fire light glows,  
Peer out three golden curly heads  
And cheeks of the richest rose.  
The board is spread with its dainty cheer,  
The tapers are all alight,  
My flowers in bloom—but—can this be fear?  
Oh! will he come home to-night?

Mine eyes are bright—it's because they see  
And mirror with faithful shine,  
The stars of love thou wilt bring with thee  
In those soft dark eyes of thine!  
And the golden gleams, like the sun on streams,  
And the floating of fancies light,  
That will dance o'er my heart in its gladsome dreams,  
If thou wilt come home to-night!

My cheek's aglow—it's because I'm drest,  
In his fancy's favorite hue?  
Come tell me, Elise, do I "look my best?"  
In this robe of the richest hue?  
Is my hair in the way he loves—you know,  
Is the fall of the ringlets right?  
Do you think me vain? Ah it is not so—  
But—he will be home to-night!"

"Look well," you say? I am glad the while,  
And I hope he will note the glow,  
And the lighted eye and the sunny smile,  
Which charmed him—so long ago.  
I know that my summers are passing away,  
That I'm not as beautiful—quite—  
I know what HE'LL SAY, with his smile so gay,  
If he should come home to-night.

Yes—I think he'll come—o'er the crimson keys  
Of my heart doth a music swell,  
Like the soft, sweet chiming of the distant seas  
Through the folds of a lonely shell;  
And SOMETHING that's neither of earth nor air,  
But endowed with an angel's might,  
Has met my spirit and whispered there,  
"Rest! he will be home to-night!"

Oh! God be thanked! who has kept him safe  
In his wanderings wild and wide;  
And guided him back like a precious waif  
Astray on a stormy tide.  
Hail there's the train! with signal shrill,  
Oh! dark hours speed your flight!  
Hail! soul rejoice—oh! heart be still—  
He has come—he has come to-night!

### Sweets with Admonitions.

Kiss me softly and speak to me low;  
Malice has ever a vigilant ear,  
What if Malice were lurking near?

Kiss me, dear!  
Kiss me softly and speak to me low.

Kiss me softly and speak to me low;  
Envy, too, hath a watchful ear;  
What if Envy should chance to hear?

Kiss me, dear,  
Kiss me softly and speak to me low.

Kiss me softly and speak to me low,  
Trust me, darling, the time is near  
When lovers may love with never a fear;

Kiss me, dear,  
Kiss me softly and speak to me low.

### "BRICK'S" BUMPS.

The head and front of the Phrenological world is O. S. Fowler, now in this city, bumping his way over the country, telling people very accurately what they are good for, and if so, why not. On a calm still day in April, when the wind was prowling gently without, arrayed in our fine apparel and appurtenances, bearing the olive branch of greenbacks in our left duke, we with bold bashfulness, advanced upon the snare of the Fowler and applied for five dollars' worth of character, if he had any to spare of a good article, and we thought he had.

Fowler was in. We rapped so gently on the door as to crack a pannel. In tones of affright, evidently from the loud knock, he shouted—"come in!" That was our best bolt. So we, as of one accord, came in at once. We occupied a chair. Fowler is a venerable bumper, of much years and most becoming dignity. In fact, he is a fine old gentleman, and at once examined all the convexes, contusions, bumps, concaves, hills, valleys, mountains, mole-hills, knobs, protuberances, bunions, warts, exclamation points and such on those weather beaten head of ours. Then he took a belt with figures thereon, tied it about our cranium and said—*ha-ha!*

Then he slung his hands with becoming scientificness among our frosted locks and said—*ho! ho!* Then he squeezed on one, now squeezed on another, bore heavy on another, bore heavy on one hill and rubbed a little knoll familiarly and said—*umph! umph!*

As people wish to know what kind of a chap the horrid monster is who edits this paper we have decided to please them, and tell the tale as 'twas told to us by the learned professor, with a few alterations and amendments. Said he—

"Well, old man you have a head. I might say a severe head. This stuff growing from the cuticle on the roof is said to be hair. The reason why it is so called is because science has discovered that to be its name. If I had as much hair as you have I'd be proud, but I am not proud. And this is all hair, what there is of it. There is not so much inside your head as there would be if it was larger, and your skull was thinner. This is a remarkable head. It differs from the head of navigation, of a sermon or a hitching post. It is a pretty head—that is a putty head. The part of your head in front is called the front part, and I don't care who knows it. It is at all times the Sarah Pullum. The back of your head is not the front part. You have enough of this kind for two. These little hills are bumps. These bumps indicate swellings.—Some people have so many bumps they are called swellheads.

You have large caution. I don't believe you'd lend a man a dollar if you hated him ever so bad. That is a good bump, but it wants filing down.

You have great firmness. I think the physician who officiated must have rode to your father's house on a mule and took the boy home with him by mistake. See patent office reports, vol. xx, chap. I.

Your bump of civilization is very much. I think you would as soon cheat another man as yourself, and a little sooner.—Honesty is large. I'd drop a pocket book anywhere if you was not around. I'd let you have access to any bank if there was nothing in it, and the other man had a revolver.

You are brave, quite brave, if a man owes you, you have no hesitation about asking him for it, and would be reasonably polite to a handsome lady, even if her husband was a shootist. I'd advise you to poultice this bump.

Appetite is 19. You have been fortunate in this respect.—I may say that nature dealt you a full hand the first pop, and I would as soon board you a day as a year, and would not care how short the day was.

Beverage is fair, but needs irritation. 'Twas ever thus from childhood's hour.



Music is enormous. You'd better divide this bump—offer the other half at raffle for some organ grinder's benefit.

Faith is overdrawn. I think you have robbed somebody and don't know it. You have too much faith for one, but not enough for two. I'd like a working interest in that bump, for there are surface indications that it may trouble you. You believe all you hear too readily.

Language is deficient. You are at a loss for words when you don't like a man, and never know what to say. In short you are too mild in language. Blanket that bump at once.

Veneration sits on your brain like a terrapin on a log. It is large.

Ideality is 38. You paint as with a white-wash brush.—This bump is just right.

Combateness is too mild. You'd quit too soon. I don't think you'd get fust cost on that bump.

Weight is good. I think you would wait about two weeks before you would shoot a man in a row. You have no self-esteem. Buy or borrow one immediately.

Love of nature is quite thick. You admire the beautiful. If I was a beautiful young lady I should expect to be admired by you. Oft in the stilly night. Sing.

Friendship is lacking. You never would do enough for a friend, and would do too little for an enemy!

Color is quite mild. You seem to make a distinction between black and white. Yes, I think you do.

Locality is serene and graceful; you'd go right to the place in the night if you knew where it was.

Continuity is a pretty little incident. You'd love one thing at a time and the oftener the better.

Mirthfulness—hardly enough for a funeral.

Time is pleasant—more so for you than eternity.

There is one thing you lack—that is determination to succeed. You will never amount to much for your lack of energy. Protect that bump, also.

Amativeness! Oh! Thunder!

*From the La Crosse Democrat*

### A SPLENDID DESCRIPTION.

On a certain occasion one Paul Denton, a Methodist preacher in Texas advertised a Barbecue, with better liquor than is usually furnished. When the people assembled a desperado in the crowd cried out, "Mr. Paul Denton, your reverence has lied. You promised not only a good barbecue, but better liquor. Where's the liquor." "There!" answered the missionary, in tones of thunder, and pointing his long bony finger at the matchless double spring, gushing up in two strong columns with a sound like a shout of joy from the bosom of the earth. "There!" he repeated, with a look terrible as lightning, while his enemy actually trembled at his feet, "there is the liquid which God, the Eternal, brews for all his children! Not in the simmering still, over smoky fires choked with poisonous gases, and surrounded with the stench of sickening odors and corruption, doth our Father in heaven prepare the precious essence of life, pure cold water. But in the glade and glassy dell, where the red deer wanders and the child loves to play, there God brews it; and down, low down in the deepest valleys, where the fountain murmurs and the rills sing; and high up in the mountain tops where the naked granite glitters like gold in the sun, where storm clouds brood and the thunder-storms crash; and far out on the wide, wide sea, where the hurricane howls music, and the big waves roll the chorus, sweeping the march of God—there He brews it, the beverage of life—healthgiving water. And everywhere it is a thing of beauty gleaming in the dewdrop, singing in summer-rain, shining in the ice gem, till they seem turned to living jewels; spreading a golden vein over the setting sun,

or a white gauze around the midnight moon; sporting in the cataract; sleeping in the glacier; dancing in the hail-shower; folding its bright snow curtains softly around the wintry world; and weaving the many colored iris, that seraph's zone of the sky, whose warp is the rain-drops of the earth, all checkered over with celestial flowers by the mystic hand of refraction—that blessed life-water, no poison bubbles on its brink; its foam brings not madness and murder; no blood stains its liquid glass; pale widows and starving children weep not burning tears in its depths! Speak out, my friends, would you exchange it for the demon's drink, "alcohol?"

A shout, like the roaring of a tempest, answered "No!"

### DOMESTIC RECIPES.

**HOW TO PRESERVE FISH.**—The hot season is upon us, and in preserving fresh fish, for any length of time, heavy demands are made upon the ice house. But ice cannot always be obtained, and in such a dilemma, a recipe which now occupies the attention of science may be employed to advantage. "Take crumbs of fresh bread, and, with spirits of wine, make paste; with this paste stop the mouth and gills of the fish, and envelop it in fresh nettles, over the nettles wrap straw, and let the straw be watered now and then." It is claimed that by this simple operation fresh fish will be preserved several days in the hottest of weather, and that they will suffer but little in transporting them thousand of miles in the height of summer.—*Field, Turf and Farm.*

**HOW SALT FISH SHOULD BE FRESHENED.**—Many persons who are in the habit of freshening mackerel or other salt fish, never dream that there is a right and a wrong way to do it.—Any person who has seen the process of evaporating going on at the salt works know that the salt falls to the bottom.—Just so it is in the pan where your mackerel or white-fish lies soaking; and, as it lies with the skin side down, the salt will fall to the skin, and there remain, when, if placed with the flesh side down, the salt falls to the bottom of the pan, and the fish comes out freshened as it should be. In the other case, it is nearly as salt as when put in. If you do not believe this, test the matter for yourselves.

**GOOD HAMS.**—After hams have been smoked, take them down, and thoroughly rub the flesh part with molasses, then immediately apply ground or powdered pepper, by sprinkling on as much as will stick to the molasses, when they must be hung up again to dry. Hams treated in this manner will keep perfectly sweet for two or three years. This must be done before the fly deposits its eggs, for after that is done, nothing will stop their ravages. The above has been practiced in our section for twenty years. No soaking is necessary. One pint of molasses and one and a half or two pounds of black pepper are sufficient for any ordinary family. Try this plan, if you want good sweet hams.—*Cor. Rural Amer.*

### The Little Cheat.

She said she loved me dearly,  
And gave me kisses sweet,  
But soon I did discover  
She was a darling cheat.  
For though her form was buxom,  
With a voluptuous tone!  
It turned out, on inspection,  
Her charms were not her own.

I press'd her to my bosom—  
She gave a little start;  
I hugg'd her close, but couldn't feel  
The beating of her heart.  
I reached my hand, with sudden clasp;  
My breast with grief was full:  
What in creation did I grasp?  
A lot of cotton wool!

**SIZE OF NAILS.**—The following table will show any one at a glance the length of the various sizes and the number of nails in a pound. They are rated "3-penny" up to "20-penny." The first column gives the number, the second the length in inches, and the third the number per pound—that is :

3-penny.....1	inch.....	557 nails per lb.
4-penny.....1½	inches.....	353 nails per lb.
5-penny.....1¾	inches.....	232 nails per lb.
6-penny.....2	inches.....	167 nails per lb.
7-penny.....2¼	inches.....	141 nails per lb.
8-penny.....2½	inches.....	101 nails per lb.
10-penny.....2¾	inches.....	68 nails per lb.
12-penny.....3	inches.....	54 nails per lb.
20-penny.....3½	inches.....	34 nails per lb.
Spikes.....4	inches.....	16 nails per lb.
Spikes.....4½	inches.....	12 nails per lb.
Spikes.....5	inches.....	10 nails per lb.
Spikes.....6	inches.....	7 nails per lb.
Spikes.....7	inches.....	5 nails per lb.

From this table an estimate of quantity and suitable sizes for any job of work can be easily made.

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.**—We give a table showing the amount in pounds or gallons of some of the most uncommon weights and measures. Such a table well illustrates the necessity of a new and improved system :

A firkin of butter.....	56 lbs
A sack of coals.....	224 lbs
A truss of straw.....	35 lbs
A stave of hemp.....	32 lbs
A sack of flour.....	280 lbs
A quintal.....	100 lbs
A piggot of steel.....	120 lbs
A truss of hay.....	56 lbs
A bush.....	80 bush
A kilderkin.....	18 galls
A barrel.....	35 galls
A hoghead.....	54 galls
A puncheon.....	84 galls

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.**—We acknowledge the receipt of public documents from Luther Giddings, John Wethered, Ezra Whitman, and Lindsay H. Rennolds, Esqs. of the State Constitutional Convention, now being held at Annapolis.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—Our friends in the country and city can be furnished with Boots and Shoes of every description, either for Ladies, Gentlemen, Boys, and Children, of the best city make by applying to our artist, George S. Clogg, No. 2 S. Calvert street, and 159 West Pratt street. Call and examine his stock.

**CASE STEEL SAWS.**—Henry C. Brown & Co. Baltimore, manufacture every description of Case Steel Saws, on the most approved principles, and offer them to the public on the most reasonable terms. See advertisement.

**THE "FARMER."**—This valuable Agricultural monthly, published at Richmond, Va., by Elliott & Shields, is well worth the attention of farmers and others in Virginia and elsewhere. It treats upon all subjects of interest to the agriculturist with great ability. It contains 40 pages reading, and is \$3 per annum.

**FARMER'S HOME JOURNAL.**—The first number of this paper has been received. It is ably edited and elegant in its typography and is issued weekly at Lexington, Ky., at \$3 per annum. Editors and proprietors, Jas. J. Miller and James R. Marrs. If the first number is a fair specimen, we bespeak for it a decided success.

**CHESTER WHITE PIGS AT THE SOUTH.**—We have received the following note from Mr. Thos. Wood, of Doe Run, Chester county, Pa., whom we believe to be a breeder of the highest standing :

"I notice in the *Country Gentleman* of April 25th, a communication from 'Virginia,' saying that Chester White Swine are unsuited to the South on account of being subject to mange. In the same number, G. S., of Maryland, says swine are more subject to mange in cold than warm weather. Then why should the Chester Whites do well all over the North and not well at the South? But is it a fact that they do not do well both North and South, where proper food and fair treatment are administered? I think not, as I have shipped pigs of this breed into all the Southern States, and have heard no complaint. On the contrary, I have many letters speaking highly of the pigs, and of their adaptation to the southern soil and climate. Some have so expressed themselves after seven years' experience. I should surmise that VIRGINIA's boys did not properly administer to the wants of his Chester Whites. Pigs of any breed may be kept clear of mange by proper food and cleanliness. Should any indication of mange appear, wash with soap and warm water, and rub grease or oil over the affected parts."—*Country Gentleman*.

#### Straitening Leaning Trees.

No fruit tree will be so productive when the entire top and body have been blown partially over as it will when in an erect position. When a tree leans, sprouts will almost always start from the upper side of the body, or branches, and grow perpendicularly. By this means the largest proportion of the sap flows into the erect stems, while the horizontal part of the top receives only a limited supply of nourishment.

When it is desirable to straighten up a leaning fruit tree, set a post in the ground, say twenty feet from the tree, to which a chain, or rope and pulleys may be attached, and the tree straightened up and secured with a strong wire extending from a stake in the ground to a strap around the main part of the tree. In case a tree is large, and well rooted, let the earth be excavated on the upper side, and a few of the larger roots loosened, and the earth removed beneath them, so that the top of the tree may be brought up with ease to the desired position.

The guy wires will always hold trees in position, until the roots will keep the top erect. If long branches grow too erect, it is easy to wire them down to the proper position, when the wires may all be removed after one season. As a general rule, fruit trees are neglected quite too much.—*El.*

**THE PROTESTANT CHURCHMAN.**—This religious weekly, is published by McCalla, Staveland & Co., New York, at \$4 per annum. Rev. Mr. Schenck, formerly of Baltimore, is one of the editors.